



# THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

## Speaking of Angels and Demons, ...

We are instructed, moreover, by our sacred books how from certain angels, who fell of their own free-will, there sprang a more wicked demon-brood, condemned of God along with the authors of their race, and that chief we have referred to. It will for the present be enough, however, that some account is given of their work. Their great business is the ruin of mankind.

So, from the very first, spiritual wickedness sought our destruction. They inflict, accordingly, upon our bodies diseases and other grievous calamities, while by violent assaults they hurry the soul into sudden and extraordinary excesses. Their marvellous subtleness and tenuity give them access to both parts of our nature. As spiritual, they can do no harm; for, invisible and intangible, we are not cognizant of their action save by its effects, as when some inexplicable, unseen poison in the breeze blights the apples and the grain while in the flower, or kills them in the bud, or destroys them when they have reached maturity; as though by the tainted atmosphere in some unknown way spreading abroad its pestilential exhalations.

So, too, by an influence equally obscure, demons and angels breathe into the soul, and rouse up its corruptions with furious passions and vile excesses; or with cruel lusts accompanied by various errors, of which the worst is that by which these deities are commended to the favour of deceived and deluded human beings, that they may get their proper food of flesh-fumes and blood when that is offered up to idol-images. What is daintier food to the spirit of evil, than turning men's minds away from the true God by the illusions of a false divination? And here I explain how these illusions are managed.

Every spirit is possessed of wings. This is a common property of both angels and demons. So they are everywhere in a single moment; the whole world is as one place to them; all that is done over the whole extent of it, it is as easy for them to know as to report. Their swiftness of motion is taken for

Continued on back cover



Published quarterly by  
Voice of Elijah, Inc.

**VOE Board of Directors/Editors:**

Royce Gonzalez: CEO/President  
Winfred Buckingham: Editor  
Faye Chandler: Director/Editor  
Marcia Harper: Director/Editor  
Donald Hazard: Director  
Diane Karnes: Director  
Janet Lohman: Director/Editor  
Freddy Mack: Director  
Mary Beth Martin: Director  
Anita McCay: Director/Editor  
David Riess: Director  
Christopher Vanning: Director  
Belinda Whitmer: Editor

Volume 29, Number 1  
January 2018

All correspondence  
should be addressed to:

Voice of Elijah, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2257  
Rockwall, TX 75087-2257

Subscription rates:  
(1 year, U.S. Funds)

U.S. \$24.00  
Canada \$30.00  
Abroad \$42.00

Articles published by permission of  
Larry Dee Harper  
(dba The Elijah Project).

Except when otherwise noted,  
Scripture taken from the  
New American Standard Bible,  
© 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971,  
1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1987, 1988.  
The Lockman Foundation.  
Used by permission.  
Bolded Scripture reflects  
the emphasis of the author.

Copyright © 2018, 2023  
by Voice of Elijah, Inc.  
[voiceofelijah.org](http://voiceofelijah.org)  
[facebook.com/voiceofelijahinc](https://facebook.com/voiceofelijahinc)

## *A Note From the Editor*

### *Starting Off 2018*

The main article in this issue, "It Would Be Best to Not Call God a Liar," is the second in a series of articles Larry Harper is writing to provide a summary of the biblical message. He begins the article by repeating a list of eight items that he admonishes us to keep firmly in mind. This list first appeared in the January 2017 issue, and he went into detail regarding the first item on the list (the two "Adams" mentioned in the Creation Account) in the October 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*®. If this is the first issue of your subscription, I suggest you read the 2017 back issues to get up to speed. In this issue, Larry discusses the following:

2. When God banned Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He gave them **the promise** that they would be created in the image and likeness of God if they would only believe **the promise**. He also expected them to **hand down the promise** from one generation to **the next** as an **inheritance** that each **heir of the promise** could bequeath to **the next heir of the promise** as an oral **blessing**. The Book of Genesis is an account of how the Patriarchs did that very thing. I have already explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer*, Volume 1.

*The Voice of Elijah*®, January 2018, p. 1

To learn all about who handed the promise down to whom, order *The Inheritance of the Believer*, Volume 1 on the enclosed Order Form or order the CDs and/or DVDs online at [voiceofelijah.org](http://voiceofelijah.org).

### *2017 Was a Good Year*

Thank you for your contributions to VOE in 2017. Royce Gonzalez, CEO, reported to the Voice of Elijah, Inc. Board of Directors that the total revenue in 2017 exceeded \$850,000, which is the highest annual total in the organization's twenty-nine years. Your faithful contributions will accelerate the outreach of *The Voice of Elijah*® to True Believers, which will make 2018 a year of major progress in fulfilling our mission.

*The Voice of Elijah*® has already made a concerted effort to increase its visibility on Facebook. In the month of December, Voice of Elijah, Inc. increased international outreach considerably. With digital downloads of the six Free Offer booklets, the Truth is now available in various countries around the globe, where it has not been available up to this point. On January 1, 2017, *The Voice of Elijah*® Facebook page had 1559 Page Likes. On December 31, 2017, the total had climbed to 17,680; and that number is increasing every day. Many who are new to *The Voice of Elijah*®, were introduced to our mission via Facebook.

*Continued on page 29*

*Continued from inside front cover*

Say what you may about social media, it is an excellent tool for getting our mission broadcast to the masses. And we intend to continue using it in just that way. Here are examples of excerpts posted on Facebook that are intended to pique the interest of anyone honestly seeking Truth. In 1993, Larry said the following about Isaiah 30:27–33:

*It's coming folks, and there is nothing you or I can do to stop it. The only hope you have is to seek refuge in the One Who "gave" Himself and has already endured that eternal flame so that you and I might, like saints of old (Dan. 3:19–27), "pass through" unscathed: (Hebrews 12:22–29).*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 1993, pp. 19–20

That message isn't often heard in the Church, I'm supposing! And this next message, which Larry has taught throughout the materials *The Voice of Elijah®* distributes, is also not something you hear taught today. I assume born-again Believers will sit up and take notice when they read this:

*If Truth is somehow a matter of "what it means to me," there can be no such thing as objective Truth that exists outside the individual. Furthermore, if God intended for everyone to gain supernatural insight or revelation when they read the Scriptures, there is no need for anyone to teach or preach. So why are they still talking?*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, July 1999, p. 36

*Belief in the Truth of The Teaching is not something that one should treat casually. Since only those who believe the Truth will be saved, what one believes is a matter of life and death.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, October 1999, p. 7

The Truth is available through *The Voice of Elijah®*. If you haven't read *God Called; I Answered* (available on the Order Form and at [voiceofelijah.org](http://voiceofelijah.org)), you should. That book details Larry's calling and exhibits his dedication to providing the Truth of The

*Apostolic Teaching to Believers at the End of the Age. If you are one that he has been called to teach, the following message should ring true to you:*

*Unfortunately, The Apostolic Teaching which informed the mind-set of Early Church Believers has long since been lost. That means you will be able to appreciate what Irenæus says only after The Teaching has been fully restored. Therefore, I will point out some of the parabolic images as we go along and briefly explain how they are used in The Apostolic Teaching. In years to come, you will better understand the travesty the Gnostics created by taking the parabolic imagery of The Apostolic Teaching as a literal description of a spiritual reality.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, August 2003, pp. 7–8

*God called me to restore The Apostolic Teaching and make it available so that those who are still seeking Truth would be able to find what they are seeking. He did not call me to try to convince anyone that what I teach is true. The reason for that is quite simple: True Believers are not looking for "proof." They are looking for Truth. And they are certainly able to recognize it when they see it.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, October 2003, p. 15

*If you have ever had a valid born-again experience, I ask you to consider what I am saying. God has not called me to reach the unsaved. He has called me to prepare born-again Believers for the Return of Jesus Christ.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, April 1995, p. 12

*The Truth is, folks, we are plunging headlong into the most incredible time human history has ever known. The terrible storms that will occur before the End are only now just beginning. Not only will those storms become more intense, they will occur more frequently. The sheer magnitude of human suffering that occurs over the next several years will provide "Christians" ample opportunity to view God's wrath up close and firsthand.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, April 1995, p. 12

In Him,

*Marcia Harper*

# It Would Be Best to Not Call God a Liar

**I**n the January 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I told you that the Apostle Paul makes a statement in the second chapter of 2 Corinthians that one can easily overlook if one doesn't know what he has in mind. But I also said that if one does know what he is *talking about*, it becomes a stark reminder of the pitched battle in which the Lord demands that each and every one of His Children not only participate but also come out triumphant. Therefore, I showed you what Paul says; and then I explained what he knows that you need to know if you intend to overcome the wiles of Satan here at the End of the Age.

In the April 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I first reviewed what I had told you in the January issue. Then I explained how the renewing of the mind that Paul mentions in Romans 12:2 fits together with the things I had already explained in those issues. But in both of those issues, I included the following statement:

*Most folks who call themselves "Christians" today don't believe there is only one Truth to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead, they believe there is some sort of smorgasbord of "truths" from which one just picks and chooses whatever "truth" they find most acceptable. The Truth is, the Apostles fully understood the message of the Hebrew Scriptures and they made no bones about it. They also believed that anybody who believed something that contradicted the Truth they understood was not going to be saved. Paul states that emphatically in the first chapter of the Book of Galatians.*

*What Paul says in that passage should settle the issue for anyone with half a brain; but unfortunately, most "Christians" today are content to go on believing the*

*mishmash of contradictory beliefs they have heard in the distorted remnants of the Church established by the Apostles. It has never occurred to them that the New Testament clearly reveals the leaders of the Apostolic Church believed but one Truth, and they also believed the Truth that they possessed can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures.*

After stating that, I gave you a summary of the message of the Old Testament:

**1. Two "Adams" are mentioned in the Creation Account.** The Apostle Paul *talks about* those two "Adams" in 1 Corinthians 15:45–49. Genesis 1 describes the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God on the sixth "day" of Creation; Genesis 2 describes the creation of our forefather on the third "day." I have already explained these things in the booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God* and in the October 2017 issue of this newsletter.

**2. When God banned Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He gave them the promise that they could be created in the image and likeness of God if they would only believe the promise.** He also expected them to *hand down the promise* from one generation to the next as an *inheritance* that each *heir of the promise* could bequeath to the next *heir of the promise* as an *oral blessing*. The Book of Genesis is an account of how the Patriarchs did that very thing. I have already explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*.

**3. The central purpose of the covenant God made with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai was to unify the promise after Jacob divided it up when he blessed his**

*sons and grandsons*. Since there was no longer just one *heir of the promise* as there had been up to that time, God used the Mosaic Covenant to create *Corporate Israel*, a corporate body that He claimed as His Firstborn Son. That corporate body functioned as a mediator to hold title to *the promise* until Jesus Christ became *Corporate Israel, the Heir of the promise*. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*.

**4. Under the terms of The Law of Moses, an individual member of Corporate Israel could be “cut off from” Corporate Israel.** Various parts of that law demanded that ultimate punishment. If the sons of Israel were aware that someone had violated one of those, they were expected to execute the individual and thereby erase his name from Israel. Even if they did not do that, God would “cut him off from” *Corporate Israel*. That is, He would erase the individual’s name from the census book of Israel that He maintained. For that reason God alone knew who had been “cut off from” *Corporate Israel*, and no one else had the right to say anyone was still a member of *Corporate Israel*. I have already explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*.

**5. God made two covenants with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai.** The first covenant required the perfect obedience of the corporate body and did not provide a means of atonement. If one individual sinned, every member of the corporate body became guilty. The second covenant provided a means of atonement for the individual. If an individual sinned, his sin could be atoned for through a sacrificial ritual, but the corporate body still remained guilty. I have also explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*.

**6. Because the sons of Israel failed to adhere to the requirements of both the first and second Mosaic Covenants, the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel promised them God would offer a New Covenant to the individual members of Corporate Israel.** He did that through the ministry of John the Baptist. But the New Covenant that the Jews accepted at that time was just like the first Old Covenant their ancestors had accepted at Mount Sinai—it provided no means of atonement. If a person sinned, he would immediately be “cut off from” *Corporate Israel*. So God “cut off from” *Corporate Israel* all the members of *Corporate Israel* other than Jesus Christ

because they could not keep the terms of the New Covenant. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*.

**7. When Jesus Christ was baptized by John and accepted the terms of the New Covenant, He became Corporate Israel, the Heir of the promise.** Therefore, when He died, He atoned for the sins of *Corporate Israel* by suffering under the curses of the Mosaic Covenant. But because of His obedience to the terms of the New Covenant, God was obligated to *fulfill the promise* and resurrect Him so that He could *inherit what was promised* to Adam and Eve—creation in the image and likeness of God. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah®* newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah® Update* over the past quarter of a century.

**8. When Christ died, His death invoked the terms of the oral testament He had made prior to His death.** Under the terms of that oral testament, all anyone has to do to *inherit the promise* is believe it—and apologize to God for the sins they have committed. Those who do that will be declared not guilty by God; those who don’t, won’t. I have also explained these things in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah®* newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah® Update* over the past quarter of a century.

I told you that, if you intend to triumph over the enemy of your soul, you need to believe the things I outlined in the eight paragraphs above; and you also need to know why you have *chosen* to believe them. That is because the Truth they provide is a refuge in which your soul can hide whenever you face a fierce onslaught of enemy forces. Without them, you will have nothing you can use to defend against the lies that Satan propagates for the sole purpose of destroying the souls of men. I also told you that, for that reason, I planned to write a series of articles in which I provide a summary explanation of those eight parts of *The Teaching*. I began with the first item on the list above in the October 2017 issue, and I am going to continue with the second item in this issue.

In the article I wrote for the October 2017 issue of this newsletter, I concluded with a list of things you need to know and believe if you intend to triumph over the “winds” that are going to “blow” here at the End of the Age. I said this:

*The Truth regarding the biblical account of God's decision to create Jesus Christ—the Second Adam—in His Own image and likeness is this:*

1. *Genesis 1 is a summary overview of everything God has done with regard to His decision to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
2. *Genesis 2–4 explains some of the events that led up to God's decision to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
3. *The first two verses of Genesis 5 are an introduction to Moses' account of why God decided to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
4. *Moses' account of why God decided to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness begins in Genesis 5:3 and goes through Genesis 8.*
5. *Genesis 9:1–7 is a summary of God's announcement of His intention to begin the process of creating Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*

You need to keep those things in mind if you want to know the Truth with regard to the message of the Scriptures, but you also need to know the creation of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God is the very focus of the Scriptures in which God has revealed His plan and purpose for the salvation of mankind. His **fulfillment** of that plan began with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness, and it will conclude with the Resurrection of all “male and female” Believers in that same image and likeness. That is the Truth regarding the *parabolic image* of the “new birth” by which one becomes a Child of God. But only those who believe the Truth here at the End of the Age will participate in that event. All others will be discarded.

In this article, I intend to go back to the very beginning of the biblical account of God's plan of salvation and recount the things you need to know and believe if you intend to be one of those who participate in the Resurrection of the Righteous. The story begins immediately after Adam and Eve admitted their sin to God. But first, I want to show you a part of *The Apostolic Teaching* that you may never have considered. Maybe then it will be easier for you to see the Truth in the things I am going to tell you later on.

## Inheritance Means Somebody Died

In the Book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul reiterates several things that he had obviously explained to the Galatians at some earlier time; and he challenges them to recall and hold on to what he told them previously. The third and fourth chapters of that epistle give the crux of the message he had already *delivered* to them *orally*. If you intend to be one of those who are “saved by faith” here at the End of the Age, you need to understand and believe the same things that Paul explained to the Galatians *orally*. I am going to explain those things to you in broad outline; but first, you need to know what Paul wrote in the third and fourth chapters of his letter to the Galatians:

<sup>1</sup>[O] [senseless] [Galatians\*], [who] [has cast a spell on\*] [you], [for] [whose] [Eyes] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [was written earlier] [as having been crucified]? <sup>2</sup>[I want] [to learn] [only] [This] [from] [you]: [Did you receive] [The] [Spirit] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law], [or] [on the basis] [of Hearing] [with Belief in God's Promise]? <sup>3</sup>[Are you] [so] [senseless]? [After starting] [in Spirit], [are you [now] going to finish] [in {the} Flesh]? <sup>4</sup>[Did you suffer] [so much] [for no good reason]—[if] [indeed] [even] [for no good reason]? <sup>5</sup>[Therefore], {does} [the One Who] [abundantly provides] [The] [Spirit] [for you] [and] [works] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [among] [you] {do it} [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law] [or] [on the basis] [of Hearing] [with Belief in God's Promise] <sup>6</sup>[just like] [Abraham]: “[HE BELIEVED] [THE] [{Living} GOD], [AND] [IT WAS RECKONED] [TO HIM] [AS] [A DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY].”

<sup>7</sup>[So then] [you know] [that] [those who are {children}] [on the basis] [of Belief in God's Promise], [These Individuals] [are] [Abraham's] [Sons]. <sup>8</sup>[But] [when] [The] [Scripture] saw beforehand] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [was going to acquit] [The] [Gentiles] [on the basis] [of Belief in God's Promise], [it proclaimed the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise** earlier to\*] [Abraham], [that] “[ALL] [THE] [GENTILES] [WILL BE BLESSED] [IN] [YOU].” <sup>9</sup>[So then] [those who are {believers}] [on the basis] [of Belief in God's Promise] [are going to be **blessed**] [along with] [Abraham], [The] [One Who Believed God's Promise].

<sup>10</sup>[For] [as many as] [are {believers}] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law] [are] [under] [a Curse]; [for] [it has been written] [that] “[ANYONE] [WHO] [DOES [NOT] CONTINUE ON] [IN ALL] [THE THINGS THAT] [HAVE BEEN WRITTEN] [IN]

[THE] [SCROLL] [OF THE] [LAW]—[TO] [ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM]—{is} [COMPLETELY CURSED].”<sup>11</sup>[But] [it is obvious] [that] [nobody] [is going to be acquitted] [by] [Law] [before] [The] [{Living} God], [because], “[THE] [ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS] [WILL LIVE] [ON THE BASIS] [OF BELIEF IN GOD’S **PROMISE**].”<sup>12</sup>[But] [The] [Law] [is] [not] [on the basis] [of Belief in God’s **Promise**]; [on the contrary], “[THE ONE WHO] [HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM] [WILL LIVE] [BY] [THEM].”<sup>13</sup>[The Anointed One] [bought us] back [from] [The] [Curse] [of The] [Law], [after becoming] [a Curse] [for [our] sake]—[because] [it has been written], “[ANYONE] [WHO] [HANGS] [ON] [A TREE] {is} [COMPLETELY CURSED]”—<sup>14</sup>(1) [so that] [The] [Blessing] [of] [Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [through] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; (2) [so that] [we could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief in God’s Promise].

<sup>15</sup>[Brothers], [I am speaking] [in [Human] terms]; [nevertheless], [nobody] [disregards] [a [validated] Testament] [of a Man] [or] [adds a codicil\*].<sup>16</sup>[Now] [The] [Promises] [were spoken] [to] [Abraham] [and] [his] [Seed]. [He does not say], “[And] [to his] [Seeds],” [as] [to] [Many], [but] [as] [to] [One], “[AND] [TO [YOUR] SEED]”—[that] [is] [The Anointed One].<sup>17</sup>[But] [this is what] [I am saying]: [The] [Law] [that came into being] [four hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [later] [does not invalidate] [a Testament] [that had been validated earlier\*] [by] [The] [{Living} God] [so] [that it] [abrogates] [The] [Promise].<sup>18</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Inheritance] {is} [on the basis] [of Law], {it is} [no longer] [on the basis] [of a Promise]; [but] [The] [{Living} God] [had {already} granted {it} as a favor] [to] [Abraham] [via] [a Promise].<sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [why] [The] [Law]? [It was added]: (1) [by] [{the} Hand] [of a Mediator], (2) [after directions were given] [via] [Messengers], (3) [for the sake of] [The] [Violations] [up to the time] [when] [The] [Seed] [to Whom] [{the inheritance} had been promised] [could come].

<sup>20</sup>[Now] [The] [Mediator] [is] [not] [for One], [but] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [One].<sup>21</sup>[Therefore], {is} [The] [Law] [against] [The] [Promises] [of The] [{Living} God]? [Certainly not]! [For] [if] [a Law] [that] [could] [give life] [had been given], [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [really] [would] [be] [on the basis] [of Law].<sup>22</sup>[But] [The] [Scripture] [has confined] [Every Last One {of us}] [under] [Sin], [so that] [The] [Promise] [could be given] [to those who] [believe God’s promise]—[on

the basis] [of {their} Belief in God’s **Promise**] [regarding Jesus], [The Anointed One].

<sup>23</sup>[But] [before] [our] [Belief in God’s **Promise**] [came], [we were being watched over] [by] [Law], [being confined] [for] [The] [Belief in God’s **Promise**] [that was going] [to be revealed].<sup>24</sup>[So then] [The] [Law] [has become] [our] [Childhood Guide] [to] [The Anointed One], [so that] [we could be acquitted] [on the basis] [of {our} Belief in God’s **Promise**].<sup>25</sup>[But] [since our] [Belief in God’s Promise] [has come], [we are] [no longer] [under] [a Childhood Guide];<sup>26</sup>(1) [for] [you are] [all] [God’s] [Sons] [via] [your] [Belief in God’s Promise] [with regard to] [The Anointed One], [Jesus];<sup>27</sup>(2) [for] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One] [have slipped on] [The Anointed One].

<sup>28</sup>[There is] [not] [Jew] [nor] [Greek], [there is] [not] [Slave] [nor] [Free Man], [there is] [not] [Male] [and] [Nipple]; [for] [you] [are] [all] [One] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].<sup>29</sup>[So] [if] [you] {are} [part of The Anointed One], [then] [you are] [Abraham’s] [Seed]—[Heirs] [in accordance with] [a Promise]. (Galatians 3:1–29) —HSSB

It doesn’t really matter one way or the other what you choose to believe Paul is saying in that chapter if you can’t bring yourself to admit he said *inheritance of the promise* supercedes the covenant God made with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai. If that much isn’t crystal clear to you, your mental circuits obviously have a short in them somewhere. If that is the case, I doubt you will even be able to see that Paul understood the Gentiles have somehow come to be *heirs of the promise* through their *belief in the promise*. But then again, maybe you just need to read a bit more of what he said about that:

<sup>1</sup>[So] [I am saying {this}]: [For] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [The] [Heir] [is] [a Toddler], (1) [he [who is] [Owner] [of everything] does not] matter {any} more than] [a Slave],<sup>2</sup>[but] (2) [he is] [under] [Supervisors] [and] [Managers] [up to] [The] [Appointed Time\*] [of The] [Father].

<sup>3</sup>[So] [also] [we], [when] [we were] [Toddlers], [were] [enslaved] [by] [The] [Elementary Beliefs] [of The] [World].<sup>4</sup>[But] [when] [The] [Fulfillment] [of The] [Span of Time] [came], [The] [{Living} God] [sent out] [His] [Son]— (1) [Who came] [from] [a Woman], (2) [Who

came] [subject to] [Law]—<sup>5</sup>(a) [so that] [He could buy back] [those who are] [subject to] [Law], (b) [so that] [we could get back] [The] [Adoption]. <sup>6</sup>[So], [because] [you are] [Sons], [The] [Living] God [has sent] [The] [Spirit] [of] [His] [Son] out [into] [our] [Hearts], [shouting], “[Abba! Father]!” <sup>7</sup>[So then] [You are] [no longer] [a Slave], [but] [a Son]; [but] [if] [a Son], [also] [an **Heir**]—[of] [God].

<sup>8</sup>[But] [on the one hand] [at that time], [when {you} did [not] know] [God], [you were slaves] [to The Things] [that are] [by Nature] [not] [Gods]; <sup>9</sup>[but [now], on the other hand], [after coming to know] [God]—[but] [rather], [after being known] [by] [God]—[how] [can you turn back] [again] [to] [The] [weak] [and] [poor] [Elementary Beliefs] [from up above], [to [which] [you want] to be slaves] [again]? <sup>10</sup>[You are carefully watching] (1) [Days] [and] (2) [Months] [and] (3) [Times] [and] (4) [Annual Religious Cycles].

<sup>11</sup>[I fear for] [you], [for fear that] [I might have labored] [for] [you] [for no good reason]! <sup>12</sup>[I am pleading with] [you], [Brothers], [be] [like] [me], [so that] [I {am} also] [like] [you]. [None] [of you have harmed] [me], <sup>13</sup>[but] [you are aware] [that] [I proclaimed the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**] [to you] [previously] [because of] [an Infirmity] [of my] [Flesh], <sup>14</sup>[yet] [you did [not] view {me} with contempt], [nor] [disdain\*] [your] [Testing] [by] [my] [Flesh]; [but] [you accepted] [me] [as] [a Messenger] [of God]—[as] {you would} [The Anointed One], [Jesus]. <sup>15</sup>[Therefore], [where] {is} [your] [Good Fortune]? [For] [I am providing testimony about] [you] [that], [if] [possible], [after gouging out] [your] [Eyes], [you would have given {them}] [to me]. <sup>16</sup>[So then] [have I become] [your] [Enemy] [by speaking the truth] [to you]?

<sup>17</sup>[They are eagerly seeking] [you]—[not] [exceptionally well]—[but] [they want] [to lock [you] out] [so that] [you eagerly seek] [them]. <sup>18</sup>[Now] {it is} [always] [far better] [to be eagerly sought] [for] [What Is Exceptionally Good], [and] [not] [only] [while] [I] [am there] [with] [you], <sup>19</sup>[my] [Children] [with [whom] I am in labor] [again] [up to the time] [when] [The Anointed One] [is formed\*] [in] [you]. <sup>20</sup>[But] [I wanted] [to be there] [with] [you] [at this time] [and] [change {the tone of}] [my] [Voice], [because] [I am perplexed] [about] [you].

<sup>21</sup>[You [who] [want] [to be] [subject to] [Law] tell] [me]: [Do you [not] hear] [The] [Law]? <sup>22</sup>[For] [it has been written] [that] [Abraham] [had] [two] [Sons]—[One] [from] [The] [Slave Girl] [and] [One] [from] [The] [Free Woman]. <sup>23</sup>[But] (1) [one] [was engendered] [from] [The] [Slave Girl], [in accordance with] [Flesh]; (2) [the

other] [from] [The] [Free Woman], [via] [a **Promise**], <sup>24</sup>[which] [is] [what is being implied figuratively\*], [for] [These Individuals] [are] [two] [Testaments]: (a) [One] {is}, [in fact], [from] [Mount] [Sinai], [which] [is] [Hagar], [who is engendering children] [into] [Slavery]. <sup>25</sup>[So] [Hagar] [is] [Sinai], [a Mountain] [in] [Arabia]; [but] [she lines up with\*] [The] [present] [Jerusalem], [for] [she is a slave] [along with] [her] [Children].

<sup>26</sup>(b) [But] [The] [Jerusalem] [above]—[Who] [is] [our] [Mother]—[is] [a Free Woman]. <sup>27</sup>[For] [it has been written]:

“[YOU, [BARREN WOMAN]—  
[THE] [ONE WHO IS [NOT] GIVING BIRTH]—  
MUST CELEBRATE!]  
[YOU—[THE] [ONE WHO IS [NOT] IN LABOR]—  
MUST LET IT RIP] [AND] [CRY OUT],  
[BECAUSE] [THE] [CHILDREN]  
[OF THE ONE WHO WAS] [DESERTED]  
{Are} [MANY] [MORE] [THAN {the children}]  
[OF THE ONE WHO] [HAS] [THE] [MAN].”

<sup>28</sup>[So] [you], [Brothers], [are] [Children] [of a Promise]—[corresponding to] [Isaac]. <sup>29</sup>[But] [indeed, just as] [at that time], [the one who] [was engendered] [in accordance with] [Flesh] [persecuted] [the one who was {engendered}] [in accordance with] [{the} Spirit], [so] [also] [now]. <sup>30</sup>[But] [what] [does] [The] [Scripture] say? “[THROW OUT] [THE] [SLAVE GIRL] [AND] [HER] [SON], [FOR] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [SLAVE GIRL] [WILL] [DEFINITELY NOT] **INHERIT**] [ALONG WITH] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [FREE WOMAN].” <sup>31</sup>[Wherefore], [Brothers], [we are] [not] [Children] [of a Slave Girl], [but] [of The] [Free Woman].

(Galatians 4:1–31)—HSSB

Now that I have given you my translation of the things Paul wrote in those two chapters, let's take a look at them *logically* instead of looking at them through the *illogical* feel-good wine goggles that Satan has assiduously worked to fabricate for the dimwits who control the masses in the Church today. In other words, let's think a bit outside the box in which Satan has wrapped up this generation in preparation for shipping them all off to Hell in a handbasket of his own making. The following is the essence of what the Apostle Paul says in the two chapters of Galatians above:

[I want] [to learn] [only] [This] [from] [you]: [Did you **receive**] [The] [Spirit] [on the basis] [of **Works**] [of **Law**], [or] [on the basis] [of **Hearing**] [with **Belief in God's Promise**]?  
(Galatians 3:2) —HSSB

In that simple statement, Paul has laid out the only two available options for attaining salvation:

1. Work for it by slavishly adhering to The Law of Moses.
2. Accept it by believing **the promise**.

Paul goes on to explain what *Gentiles* attain through their belief in **the promise** of God:

[So then] [you know] [that] [those who are {children}] [on the basis] [of **Belief in God's Promise**], [These **Individuals**] [are] [Abraham's] [Sons].  
(Galatians 3:7) —HSSB

The “scholars” in the Church today would most likely all contend that Paul is speaking metaphorically when he says Gentiles have become Abraham’s sons. The Truth is, he is referring to the fact that Jacob gave his grandson Ephraim the privilege of “carrying *The Name*” of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So after God “cut off” Ephraim “from” *Corporate Israel*, “*The Name*” of those three men got all mixed up with the Gentiles. Therefore, God was obligated to “take” a *remnant* from the Gentiles to redeem “*The Name*” that those three “carried” and in so doing also **fulfill the promise** that each of them had **inherited** from his father. But I’m getting ahead of myself, so let’s take a look at the next thing Paul says to the Galatians:

[But] [when [The] [Scripture] saw beforehand] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [was going to acquit] [The] [Gentiles] [on the basis] [of **Belief in God's Promise**], [it proclaimed the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise** earlier to\*] [Abraham], [that] “[all] [The] [Gentiles] [will be blessed] [in] [You].”  
(Galatians 3:8) —HSSB

Three things in that verse should tell you Paul knew more than what “scholars” today assume was afoot. So I am going to draw your attention to the three things you need to pay close attention to:

1. The Scripture saw **beforehand**.
2. God was going to **acquit the Gentiles** on the basis of belief in God’s **promise**.
3. It proclaimed the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise earlier** to\* Abraham.

What Paul *means* by what he says in that verse will completely elude you if you don’t know that, when God told him the following, Abram already held title to **the promise** that Paul had in mind:

<sup>1</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Abram]:  
“[Go], [by Yourself],  
[Away from Your Land],  
[And away from Your Kinfolk],  
[And away from {the} House] [of Your Father],  
[To The Land] [that] [I will show You].  
<sup>2</sup>[Then I will make You] [into a [great] Nation],  
[And I will **bless** You],  
[And I will make [Your Name] great],  
[And He will be] [a **Blessing**];  
<sup>3</sup>[I will **bless**] [those who **bless** You],  
[But [I will irrevocably curse]  
the one who considers You despicable].  
[And [all] [{the} Families of] [The Ground]  
will be blessed] [in You].”  
(Genesis 12:1–3) —my interim translation

“Scholars” seem to think the Lord showed up at Abram’s house one day and told him he had won the lottery. What those fools fail to understand is, the Jew and Gentile dichotomy was not an issue in Abram’s time, so it would make no sense for God to *talk* to him *about* Jew versus Gentile. The term *Jew* did not exist at that time. It derives from the name *Judah* and the fact that Judah was the dominant tribe in *Corporate Israel* after the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom were “cut off from” *Corporate Israel* in 722 B.C. So at the time of Abram, the dichotomy must have been between the family of Abram and everybody else. Think about it.

The Truth is, when God spoke to Abram, Abram already held title to **the promise**. That was the case because he **inherited the promise** from his father Terah. The Lord was merely telling him “beforehand” and “earlier” that everyone on Earth—those who would later be called “the Gentiles”—would be able to avail

themselves of *the blessing in the promise* that he already had in his possession. I have long since explained how Abram came into possession of *the promise* in *The Inheritance of the Believer*, Volume 1; but I am going to explain the broad outlines again a little later on in this article. For now, I need to continue pointing out the essential elements in what Paul says about it in Galatians 3–4. He goes on to say this:

<sup>13</sup>[The Anointed One] [bought [us] back] [from] [The] [Curse] [of The] [Law], [after becoming] [a Curse] [for [our] sake]—[because] [it has been written], “[ANYONE] [WHO] [HANGS] [ON] [A TREE] {is} [COMPLETELY CURSED]”—<sup>14</sup>(1) [so that] [The] [Blessing] [of] [Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [through] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; (2) [so that] [we could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief in God's Promise]. (Galatians 3:13–14)—HSSB

Paul's point is, Jesus Christ died on the cross so that *the promise* would be made available to everyone—“the Gentiles”—and thereby *fulfill the promise* God made to Abram in Genesis 12:1–3. Think about it: Individual Jews already had access to *the promise* through their adherence to *The Law of Moses*. I will explain in the next article in this series that they gained that access when God ratified the Old Covenant with Corporate Israel at Mount Sinai, but for now you need to accept the fact that Paul knows the method of salvation provided by *The Law of Moses* has given way to a methodology based solely on belief in *the promise*. That is because the curse of *The Law of Moses* that required the death of Corporate Israel was *fulfilled* when Jesus Christ died on the cross as the sole surviving Member of Corporate Israel.

The point of what I just told you is this: When Corporate Israel died on the cross on Crucifixion Day, Corporate Israel ceased to exist—along with all the “do this, don't do that” requirements of the Old Covenant. His suffering was nothing less than the punishment that God required of Corporate Israel under the terms of the Old Covenant, so the requirements of that Covenant were thereby *fulfilled*. But make no mistake, salvation under the terms of the New Covenant is not based on those same requirements. The author of the Book of Hebrews states that in the following passage:

<sup>1</sup>[But] {here is} [a Summary] [on the basis of] [the things that] [are stated]: [We have] [a High Priest] [like this One], [the One Who] [SAT DOWN] [AT] [{the} RIGHT HAND] [of The] [Throne] [OF THE] [MAJESTY] [in] [The] [Heavens] <sup>2</sup>[as a Priestly Minister] [of The] [Holy Things] [and] [The] [Tent]—[the one that is] [real], [the one that] [His Majesty] [pitched\*], [not] [Man]. <sup>3</sup>[For] [every] [High Priest] [is appointed] [so] [that] [{he} may bring and present] [both] [Offerings] [and] [Sacrifices]; [consequently], {it was} [also] [necessary] [that] [This Individual] [have] [something] [that] [He could bring and present]. <sup>4</sup>[Therefore], [if] [He were], [in fact], [on] [Earth], [He] [would] [not even] be [a Priest], [since] [those who] [bring and present] [The] [Offerings] [are] [in accordance with] [Law], <sup>5</sup>[those who] [serve as priest] [in a Perfect Example] [and] [Shadow] [of The Things] [in Heaven], [just as] [Moses] [had been given divine communication] [when {he} was about] [to finish] [The] [Tent]; [for] [He declares], “[SEE TO IT THAT] [YOU MAKE] [everything] [IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THE] [PATTERN] [THAT] [WAS SHOWN] [TO YOU] [ON] [THE] [MOUNTAIN].” <sup>6</sup>[But] [He has [now] obtained] [a [much different] Priestly Ministry], [by as much as] [He is] [also] [Mediator] [of a [better] Testament]—[one that] [has law made] [on the basis of] [better] [Promises]. <sup>7</sup>[For] [if] [That] [First {Testament}] [had been] [faultless], [a Place] [would] [not] [have been sought] [for a Second {Testament}]. (Hebrews 8:1–7)—HSSB

The Greek word I have consistently translated as “mediator” in my translation carries both a powerful *parabolic image* and a tremendously potent message; so make note of it. Then take a look at what the same author says in this passage:

<sup>11</sup>[But] [after] [The Anointed One] [arrived] [as High Priest] [of The] [Good Things] [that have come into being] [via] [The] [more important] [and] [more complete] [Tent] [not] [made by human hands]—[that] [is], [not] [of] [This] [Creation]—<sup>12</sup>[He came in] [to] [The] [Holy Things] [once and for all], [after finding] [eternal] [Redemption], [not even] [via] [{the} Blood] [of Goats] [and] [Calves], [but] [via] [His] [Own] [Blood]. <sup>13</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Blood] [of Goats] [and] [Bulls] [and] [{the} Ashes] [of a Heifer\*] [sprinkling on] [those who] [have had sexual intercourse] [makes {them} holy] [with regard to] [The] [Cleanness\*] [of The] [Flesh], <sup>14</sup>[how much] [more] {will} [The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]—

[Who], [via] [an [eternal] Spirit], [brought and presented] [Himself] [to The] [{Living} God] [unblemished]—[cleanse] [our] [Conscience] [of] [dead] [Works] [so] [that] [{we} may serve [a [living] God] as priests)?

<sup>15</sup>[And] [for] [This Reason] [He is] [Mediator] [of a [new] Testament], [so that]—[after [{His} Death] occurred] [for] [{His} Emancipation] [from The] [Violations] [against] [The] [first] [Testament]—[those who] [have been invited] [could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [eternal] [Inheritance]. <sup>16</sup>[For] [where] {there is} [a Testament], {there is} [a Pressing Need] [to bear] [{the} Death] [of the one who] [made the bequest by the testament]. <sup>17</sup>[For] [a Testament] {is} [confirmed] [by] [Those Who Are Dead], [since] [it [never] has the ability {to convey the inheritance}] [when] [the one who] [made the bequest by the testament] [is living].

(Hebrews 9:11–17) —HSSB

That passage is clearly saying Jesus Christ made what is called a “last will and testament.” What is said would make no sense otherwise. In that, it agrees completely with what I explained more than twenty-five years ago. (See “Did Jesus Leave a Will?” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1991.) But you need to keep in mind the things that Paul stated in the passages I have already quoted as you read what he says in this one:

<sup>15</sup>[Brothers], [I am speaking] [in [Human] terms]; [nevertheless], [nobody] [disregards] [a [validated] Testament] [of a Man] [or] [adds a codicil\*]. <sup>16</sup>[Now] [The] [Promises] [were spoken] [to] [Abraham] [and] [his] [Seed]. [He does [not] say], “[And] [to his] [Seeds],” [as] [to] [Many], [but] [as] [to] [One], “[AND] [TO [YOUR] SEED]”—[that] [is], [The Anointed One]. <sup>17</sup>[But] [this is what] [I am saying]: [The] [Law] [that came into being] [four hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [later] [does [not] invalidate] [a Testament] [that had been validated earlier\*] [by] [The] [{Living} God] [so] [that it] [abrogates] [The] [Promise]. <sup>18</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Inheritance] {is} [on the basis] [of Law], {it is} [no longer] [on the basis] [of a Promise]; [but] [The] [{Living} God] [had {already} granted {it} as a favor] [to] [Abraham] [via] [a Promise]. <sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [why] [The] [Law]? [It was added]: (1) [by] [{the} Hand] [of a Mediator], (2) [after directions were given] [via] [Messengers], (3) [for the sake of] [The] [Violations] [up to the time] [when] [The] [Seed] [to

Whom] [{the inheritance} had been **promised**] [could come].

(Galatians 3:15–19) —HSSB

The key to understanding what Paul had in mind when he wrote those words lies in connecting the dots between the verb that is rather routinely translated as “add a codicil,” the noun that even Tyndale realized refers to a “last will and testament,” and the noun that even the most bone-headed translator has to admit means “inheritance.” Put those three words together and the logical conclusion is, Paul has just told us that God Himself made a will—a *testament*—when He *promised* Abram in the following passage that his biological “Seed” would *inherit* what he possessed:

<sup>1</sup>[After] [These] [Things], [{the} Word] [of His Majesty] [came] [to] [Abram] [in a Vision], [saying]:

“[You must [not] be afraid], [Abram],  
[I {am}] [a Shield] [for You];  
[What You Are Due] {is going} [to increase]  
[exceedingly].”

<sup>2</sup>[Then [Abram] said], “[My Master], [Your Majesty], [why] [would you give [me] {anything}] [since I] [am going to be] [childless], [and {the} Designated Heir\*] [of my House] [is] [Eliezer] [of Damascus]?” <sup>3</sup>[Then [Abram] said]: “[Guess what!] [You have [not] given] [me] [a Seed], [so guess what!] [A Son] [of my House] [is going to take possession of [my] possessions].” <sup>4</sup>[Then guess what!] [{The} Word] [of His Majesty] {came} [to him], [saying], “[This One] [will [not] take possession of Your possessions]; [only] [that One] [Who] [comes out] [of Your Abdomen] [will take possession of Your possessions]!” <sup>5</sup>[Then He brought] [him] [outside] [and said], “[Please] [look at] [The Sea of Waters], [and count] [The Stars]—[if] [You are able] [to count] [them].” [And He said] [to him], “[This is what] [Your Seed] [will be].” <sup>6</sup>[Then he believed] [His Majesty], [and He reckoned it] [to him] [as a Declaration of Not Guilty]. <sup>7</sup>[Then He said] [to him], “[I am] [His Majesty] [Who] [brought You out] [of Ur] [of the Chaldeans], [to give] [You] [This] [Land] [to take possession of it].” <sup>8</sup>[So he said], “[My Master], [Your Majesty], [how] [will I know] [that] [I will take possession of it]?” <sup>9</sup>[Then He said] [to him], “[Take] [for Me] [a [three-year-old] Heifer] [and a [three-year-old]

Goat] [and a [three-year-old] Ram] [and a Turtledove] [and a Young Bird]." <sup>10</sup>[So he got] [all] [these] [for Him], [and he cut [them] in two] [in the Middle], [and he put] [each] [Part] [so as to meet] [its Neighbor]. [But] [he did [not] cut [The Birds] in two]. <sup>11</sup>[Then [The Raptors] came down] [on] [The Dead Bodies], [but [Abram] shooed [them] away].

<sup>12</sup>[Then [as [The Sun] was going down], it happened that] [a Deep Sleep] [fell] [on] [Abram]; [and guess what!] [An Absolute Terror] [of an [intense] Darkness] [was falling] [on him]! <sup>13</sup>[Then He said] [to Abram]: "[Know] [for certain] [that] [Your Seed] [will be] [a Temporary Resident] [in a Land] [that is [not] theirs], [and they will enslave] [them] [and humiliate] [them] [four] [hundred] [Years]. <sup>14</sup>[But [I] am [also] going to adjudicate {their} case against] [The Nation] [that] [they work for], [and after] [that] [they will go out] [with [a large amount of] Personal Property]. <sup>15</sup>[But You] [will go] [to] [Your Fathers] [in Peace]. [You will be buried] [at a [good] Old Age]. <sup>16</sup>[But {after} a [fourth] Generation] [they will return] [here], [because] [{the} Reprehensible Activity] [of the Amorite] {will} [not] {be} [complete] [until] [then]."

<sup>17</sup>[Then] [The Sun] [went down] [and [there was] a Nether Darkness]. [Then guess what!] {There was} [a [smoking] Oven] [and a Torch] [of Fire] [that] [passed] [between] [These] [Split Pieces]. <sup>18</sup>[On [That] Day], [His Majesty] [cut] [a Legal Agreement] [with] [Abram], [saying]:

"[I will give] [Your Seed] [This] [Land], [From {the} River] [of Egypt] [as far as] [The [great] River], [{the} [Euphrates] River]:

<sup>19</sup>[The Kenite] [and] [The Kenizzite] [and] [The Kadmonite\*] <sup>20</sup>[and] [The Hittite] [and] [The Perizzite] [and] [The Rephaim] <sup>21</sup>[and] [The Amorite] [and] [The Canaanite] [and] [The Gergashite] [and] [The Jebusite]." (Genesis 15:1–21) —my interim translation

Paul's point in Galatians 3:15–19 should be self-evident to anyone who wants to understand: When God *promised* Abram He would give his "Seed" all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates, it was in the context of Him telling Abram that his biological "Seed" would *inherit* his possessions. The point that one should not overlook is, *the promise* that God made to Abram on that occasion became a part of Abram's possessions. But the kicker in the hand that God dealt

Abram is this: He *promised* He would die as a sacrifice before He would fail to keep *the promise* He made that day. That is precisely what He did—in the Person of Jesus Christ. That is the *significance* of the sacrifices that He told Abram to prepare; in those days, sacrificing an animal was a customary way to swear an oath against one's own life.

The simple act of sacrifice is what turned God's *promise* regarding the Promised Land into the "last will and testament" that Paul mentions. The author of the Book of Hebrews also mentioned those things in the two passages I showed you above; but he states the matter succinctly in the following passage, where he is referring to *the promise* that God made in Genesis 22:15–18:

<sup>9</sup>[But], [Beloved Brothers], [we are convinced of] [the things that are] [better] [for] [you]—[even] [those things that hold] [Salvation]—[even] [if] [we are speaking] [like this]. <sup>10</sup>[For] [The] [{Living} God] {is} [not] [immoral] [to forget] [your] [Work] [and] [The] [Love] [that] [you presented as evidence] [to] [His] [Name], [after serving]—[and] [while serving]—[The] [Holy Ones]. <sup>11</sup>[But] [we desire] [that [every one] [of you] present [The] [same] [Concern For Others] as evidence] [with regard to] [The] [Absolute Certainty] [of The] [Hope] [up to the time of] [The Consummation], <sup>12</sup>[so that] [you are] [not] [sluggish], [but] [Imitators] [of those who] [are going to inherit] [The] [Promises] [via] [Belief in God's Promise] [and] [Patience].

<sup>13</sup>[For], [after making a promise] [to] [Abraham], [since] [He did [not] have {anybody}] [more important] [to swear an oath] [against], [The] [{Living} God] [swore an oath] [against] [Himself], <sup>14</sup>[saying], "[WHILE BLESSING], [I WILL [CERTAINLY\*] BLESS] [You], [AND] [WHILE INCREASING], [I WILL INCREASE] [You]!" <sup>15</sup>[And] [so], [after being patient], [he gained possession] [of The] [Promise]. <sup>16</sup>[For] [Men] [swear an oath] [against] [The] [Most Important Thing], [and] [for them] [{the} End] [of [every] Dispute] {is} [The] [Oath]—[for] [Confirmation]. <sup>17</sup>[By] [which {oath}], [The] [{Living} God]—[Who was [a lot more] determined] [to show] [The] [Unchangeableness] [of] [His] [Decision] [to The] [Heirs] [of The] [Promise]—[became a mediator\*] [by an Oath]! <sup>18</sup>[So that]—[by] [two] [unchangeable] [Things] [in] [which] {it is} [impossible for] [The] [{Living} God] [to lie]—[we [who] [have taken refuge] [to hold on to] [The] [Hope] [that is lying before {us}]] would have] [a [mighty] Encouragement],

<sup>19</sup>[which {hope}] [we have] [as] [an Anchor] [of our] [Soul] [both] [certain] [and] [confirmed], [and] [one that comes in] [to] [the inner] {side} [of The] [Curtain],  
<sup>20</sup>[where] [Jesus] [went in] [as a Scout\*] [for our] sake, [after becoming] [a High Priest] “[IN] [THE] [AGE TO COME] [IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THE] [ORDER] [OF MELCHIZEDEK].”  
 (Hebrews 6:9–20) —HSSB

There's that word *mediator* again. It actually refers to someone who is a “go between”; that is, it refers to someone who brings two parties together in some way. Interesting concept, isn't it? The Greek term could be applied in a variety of ways, but in every instance where you find the noun and its cognate verb used to refer to Jesus Christ, it is pointing to the fact that God *fulfilled His promise* to die if that were necessary for Him to *fulfill* every other part of *the promise* that Abram possessed. Paul refers to Christ's role as *Mediator* in this passage from Ephesians:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [you] {are} [those who were] [dead] [in your] [Transgressions] [and] [your] [Sins]—<sup>2</sup>[in] [which] [you walked] [at one time]: (1) [in agreement with] [The] [Current Age] [of] [This] [World], (2) [in agreement with] [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Authority] [of The] [Air]—[The] [Spirit] [of the one who] [is now] working [in] [The] [Sons] [of] [Apathy]; <sup>3</sup>[among] [whom] [we] [all] [at one time] [also]: (1) [conducted ourselves]: (a) [in] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [our] [Flesh], (b) [while acting in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of our] [Flesh] [and] [Understanding]; [and] (2) [were] [by Nature] [also] [Children] [of Anger], [like] [The] [Rest of {the sons of apathy}].

<sup>4</sup>[Then] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [wealthy] [in] [Mercy]—[because of] [His] [copious] [Love] [with which] [He loved] [us], <sup>5</sup>[also]: (1) [made us]—[those who were] [dead] [in our] [Transgressions]—alive together [in The] [Anointed One] ([you are] [those who have been saved] [as a Favor]); <sup>6</sup>[and] (2) [raised {us} up together]; [and] (3) [seated {us} together] [with] [those who are] [in Heaven]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—<sup>7</sup>[so that], [in] [The] [Ages] [that are] [going to come], [He might present {us} as evidence of] [The] [incredible] [Wealth] [of] [His] [Favor] [in] [{His} Benevolence] [for] [us] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].  
<sup>8</sup>[For] [because of His] [Favor] [you are] [those who have been saved] [via] [Belief in God's **Promise**], [and] [This]

[Offering] [of God] {is} [not] [because of] [you]—<sup>9</sup>[not] [on the basis] [of Works]—[so that] [no] [one] [could boast]. <sup>10</sup>[For] [we are] [What [He] Made]—[those who have been created] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [for] [good] [Works], [those {good works} that] [The] [{Living} God] [prepared beforehand] [so that] [we would walk] [in] [them].

<sup>11</sup>[Wherefore], [remember] [that] [you] {were} [at one time] [The] [Gentiles] [in] [Flesh], [those who] [are called] “[uncircumcised]” [by] [what] [is called] “[The Circumcision]” [made in] [Flesh] by human hands].  
<sup>12</sup>[Because] [you were] [at That] [Time]: (1) [separate from] [The Anointed One], (2) [estranged from] [The] [Citizenship] [of] [Israel], [and] (3) [Strangers] [to The] [Testaments] [of **The** **Promise**]—[those who did not] have [a Hope] [and] {were} [without God\*] [in] [The] [World]. <sup>13</sup>[But] [now]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—[you] [who] [were] [at one time] [far away] [have come to be] [near] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [He] [is] [our] [Peace], [the One Who] [made] [both of us] [One] [and] [undid] [The] [Partition-wall\*] [of The] [Hedge]—[The] [Hostility]—[in] [His] [Flesh], <sup>15</sup>[after abrogating] [The] [Law] [of The] [Commandments] [in] [Decrees], [so that] [in] [Himself]: (1) [He could create] [The] [Two] [into] [one] [New] [Man] [Who makes] [Peace], <sup>16</sup>[and] (2) [He could completely reconcile] [both of them] [to The] [{Living} God] [in] [one] [Body]: (a) [via] [The] [Cross], (b) [after killing] [The] [Hostility] [in] [Himself].  
 (Ephesians 2:1–16) —HSSB

The only two instances where the death of God is graphically depicted as being that of a sacrificial offering are in Genesis 15:7–10 and Genesis 22:1–18. But the point of what Paul has said about God as a *Mediator* in Galatians 3:19–20 can be easily overlooked if you do not know He committed Himself to being a *Mediator* when He declared *Corporate Israel* to be His *Firstborn Son*. That is, He did so knowing full well that by unifying *the promise* and making it the possession of *Corporate Israel*, the curses of the Mosaic Covenant that He placed on *Corporate Israel* would eventually fall on Him alone when He became *Corporate Israel*.

In Galatians 3:15–20, Paul is so focused on the fact that *The Law of Moses* cannot invalidate God's *promise* to Abram that he fails to point out the fact that *the promise* of God has several different component parts, even though he has already referred to several of them.

That characteristic of *the promise* is important to recognize simply because the original content of *the promise* never changes, it merely gains additional detail.

It should be obvious that the Promised Land is only one of the constituent parts of *the promise* in light of the fact that “all the families of the Earth” were included as *heirs* in Genesis 12, and additional elements were added to *the promise* in Genesis 17 and 22. Consequently, it would be a huge mistake for anyone to overlook the fact that the “last will and testament” in which Abram and his “Seed” were named as *heirs* in Genesis 15 is not concerned with *the inheritance* of just *the promise*; it is instead concerned with *promising* Abram that his biological “Seed” would eventually *inherit what was promised*.

It should be obvious that the most valuable thing that Abram possessed was *the* original *promise* of God, which had already been *handed down* to him as an *inheritance* before God spoke to him on the occasion described in Genesis 12. But what is not so obvious is the fact that Paul goes on in Galatians 3 to mention the single most important element in *the promise* when he says this:

<sup>24</sup>[So then] [The] [Law] [has become] [our] [Childhood Guide] [to] [The Anointed One], [so that] [we could be acquitted] [on the basis] [of {our} Belief in God's Promise]. <sup>25</sup>[But] [since [our] [Belief in God's Promise] has come], [we are] [no longer] [under] [a Childhood Guide]; <sup>26</sup>(1) [for] [you are] [all] [God's] [Sons] [via] [your] [Belief in God's Promise] [with regard to] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; <sup>27</sup>(2) [for] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One] [have slipped on] [The Anointed One].

<sup>28</sup>[There is] [not] [Jew] [nor] [Greek], [there is] [not] [Slave] [nor] [Free Man], [there is] [not] [Male] [and] [Nipple]; [for] [you] [are] [all] [One] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]. <sup>29</sup>[So] [if] [you] {are} [part of The Anointed One], [then] [you are] [Abraham's] [Seed]—[Heirs] [in accordance with] [a Promise]. (Galatians 3:24–29) —HSSB

In Galatians 4, Paul goes on to explain how everyone who believes *the promise* of God becomes both a son of Abraham and a Child of God. In so doing, he rings the changes of yet another facet of *the promise* that was explained in more detail in the time of Jeremiah and Ezekiel; but I will talk about that at some

later date. For now, it is enough that you know the opportunity to become a Child of God has been a part of *the promise* from the very beginning. So I will start at the very beginning.

## The Promise Is God's Word

*The promise* actually originated in the sin that Eve committed when she *chose* to believe Satan rather than God. As you undoubtedly already know, Satan tricked Eve into sinning by contradicting what God told Adam before Eve was created:

<sup>15</sup>[Then [His Majesty]—[God]—took] [The Adam] [and caused him to rest] [in {the} Garden] [of Eden] [to work it] [and to stand watch over it]. <sup>16</sup>[Then [His Majesty]—[God]—gave a command] [to] [The Adam] [saying], “[You may [certainly] eat] [from every] [Tree] [of The Garden], <sup>17</sup>[but You can [not] eat] [from the Tree] [of The Knowledge] [{of} good] [and bad] [because] [in {the} Day] [that You eat] [from it] [You will [definitely] die].”

(Genesis 2:15–17) —my interim translation

The following is Moses' account of how Satan deceived Eve and conned her into sinning:

<sup>1</sup>[Now The Serpent] [was] [more intelligent] [than every] [Animal of] [The Field] [that] [His Majesty]—[God]—[had made]. [And he said] [to] [The Woman], “[Did [God] [actually] say], ‘[You can [not] eat] [from any] [Tree] [of The Garden]?’” <sup>2</sup>[So [The Woman] said] [to] [The Serpent], “[We may eat] [from {the} Fruit of] [{the} Trees] [of The Garden], <sup>3</sup>[but from {the} Fruit of] [The Tree] [that] {is} [in the Middle of] [The Garden] [God] [said], ‘[You can [not] eat] [from him], [and you can [not] make contact with him] [so that] [you do [not] die].’” <sup>4</sup>[Then [The Serpent] said] [to] [The Woman]: “[You [certainly] will [not] die]! <sup>5</sup>[Because] [God] [knows] [that] [your Eyes] [will be opened] [on {the} Day] [you eat] [from him], [and you will become] [like God], [knowing] [good] [and bad].” <sup>6</sup>[When [The Woman] saw] [that] [The Tree] [was good] [for Food] [and that] [he] {was} [intensely desirable] [to The Eyes], [and The Tree] [was desirable] [for gaining insight], [then she took] [some of his Fruit] [and ate {it}] [and [also] gave {it}] [to her Man] [with her], [and he ate {it}].

(Genesis 3:1–6) —my interim translation

Eve clearly reveals she had been told about the prohibition God had given Adam when Satan approaches her, contradicting what God told Adam. But pay close attention to the fact that her sin stemmed from the fact that she believed what Satan told her rather than what God had said. That is, she did not believe the Word of God, thereby calling God a Liar. That is *significant*; remember it. If you ever have the opportunity to hear *the promise* in the Word of God, the very last thing you should do is not believe it. God does not take it lightly when someone calls Him a Liar:

<sup>9</sup>[If] [we accept] [The] [Testimony] [of] [Men], [The] [Testimony] [of] [The] [Living} God] [is] [more important], [because] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony] [of] [The] [Living} God]: [That] [He has provided testimony] [about] [His] [Son]. <sup>10</sup>[The one who] [believes God's promise] [about] [The] [Son] [of] [The] [Living} God] [has] [The] [Testimony] [in] [himself]; [the one who] [does not] believe [The] [Living} God] [has made] [Him] out to be [a Liar], [because] [He has not] believed God's promise [in] [The] [Testimony] [that] [The] [Living} God] [has provided] [with regard to] [His] [Son]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony]: [that] [The] [Living} God] [has given] [us] [eternal] [Life], [and] [This] [Life] [is] [in] [His] [Son]. <sup>12</sup>[The one who] [has] [The] [Son] [has] [His] [Life]; [the one who] [does not] have [The] [Son] [of] [The] [Living} God] [does not] have [His] [Life].

(1 John 5:9–12) —HSSB

One other thing to note regarding Eve's conversation with Satan is the fact that she thought she would gain additional insight and become "like God" if she did what Satan encouraged her to do:

<sup>4</sup>[Then [The Serpent] said] [to] [The Woman]: "[You certainly] will [not] die!" <sup>5</sup>[Because] [God] [knows] [that] [your Eyes] [will be opened] [on {the} Day] [you eat] [from him], [and you will become] [like God], [knowing] [good] [and bad]." <sup>6</sup>[When [The Woman] saw] [that] [The Tree] [was good] [for Food] [and that] [he] {was} [intensely desirable] [to The Eyes] [and The Tree] [was desirable] [for gaining insight], [then she took] [some of his Fruit] [and ate {it}] [and [also] gave {it}] [to her Man] [with her], [and he ate {it}].

(Genesis 3:4–6) —my interim translation

The key to understanding *the promise* of God resides in what Eve thought she would gain by doing what she did. She thought she (and Adam) would become "like God" and know the same things that God knows. That is precisely what God *promised* them He would do for them if they believed *the promise* that He gave them when they left the Garden. That is evident from the fact that Eve thought God had begun to *fulfill the promise* when she gave birth to Cain:

[Then The Adam] [knew] [his Woman] [Eve], [and she got pregnant] [and engendered] [Cain]. [And she said], "[I have acquired] [a Man]—[His Majesty]." (Genesis 4:1) —my interim translation

Considering the fact that the Virgin Birth of Christ was the beginning of *the fulfillment of the promise* and His Resurrection was *the Heir of the promise inheriting what was promised*, it should be obvious that Eve thought God had already begun to *fulfill the promise* when she gave birth to Cain. The Truth is, Cain's birth provided *the first heir of the promise* and was only the beginning of the transmission of *the promise* down through a series of *heirs of the promise* until it came into the possession of Jesus Christ, *the Heir of the promise* Who would finally *inherit what was promised*. And *what was promised* to anyone who would believe *the promise* that God made when Adam and Eve left the Garden was exactly what Eve believed she would gain by believing Satan's lie—that is, to become like God via resurrection in the image and likeness of God.

As I explained in the article "Pay Now or Pay Later; Either Way, You Are Going to Pay," *The Voice of Elijah*®, October 2017, two "Adams" are described in the Creation Account, but only the Second "Adam"—that is, Jesus Christ—*inherited what was promised* by being created in the image and likeness of God. As a result He became *the Heir of the promise* Who will forever "carry *The Name*" of God—which is the *Living Word of God*. Unfortunately, Cain lost the privilege of "carrying *The Name*" when he murdered his brother:

<sup>1</sup>[Then The Adam] [knew] [his Woman] [Eve], [and she got pregnant] [and engendered] [Cain]. [And she said], "[I have acquired] [a Man]—[His Majesty]." <sup>2</sup>[Then she went on] [to engender] [his Brother] [Abel]. [Now [Abel] was] [a Shepherd] [{of} a Flock], [but Cain] [was] [one who worked] [Ground]. <sup>3</sup>[So it was] [after

{some}] [Days], [Cain] [brought] [some of {the} Fruit] [{of} The Ground] [to His Majesty] [{as} a Cereal Offering]. <sup>4</sup>[But Abel], [he] [also] [brought] [some of {the} Firstborn of] [his Flock] [and some of their Fatty Parts]. [So [His Majesty] had regard] [for] [Abel] [and for] [his Cereal Offering], <sup>5</sup>[but [He did [not] have regard] for] [Cain] [or for] [his Cereal Offering]. [So [Cain] became [exceedingly] inflamed], [and his Faces] [fell]. <sup>6</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Cain]: “[Why] [are [You] inflamed]? [And why] [did [Your Faces] fall]? <sup>7</sup>[If] [You do well], [will You [not] carry {The Name}]? [But if] [You do [not] do well], [Sin] [is lying] [at {the} Entrance]; [and [its Longing] {is} for You], [but You] [will have authority] [over it].”

(Genesis 4:1–7) —my interim translation

The significance of what God said to Cain about “carrying *The Name*” can only be understood in the context of ancient beliefs regarding *blessings* and curses. The ancients believed such statements were *living* words that could only be negated by sending out another *living* word to neutralize them. Hence, *the promise* that God made to Adam and Eve was nothing less than a *blessing* that was the *Living Word* of God Himself. It was, in fact, the same *Living Word* of God that resided in the messenger who went in front of the sons of Israel during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness:

<sup>20</sup>“[Guess what!] [I] [am going to send] [a Messenger] [before You] [to guard You] [in The Way] [and to bring You] [to] [The Place] [that] [I have prepared]. <sup>21</sup>[Be on guard] [in his presence] [and listen] [to his Voice]. [You must [not] rebel] [against him]: (1) [because] [he can [not] bear] [your Transgressions]; (2) [because] [My Name] {is} [within him]; <sup>22</sup>(3) [because] [if] [You [carefully] listen] [to his Voice] [and do] [all] [that] [I say], [then I will be an enemy] [to] [Your Enemies], [and I will be hostile] [to] [those who are hostile to You]; <sup>23</sup>(4) [because] [My Messenger] [will go] [before You] [and bring You] [to] [The Amorite] [and The Hittite] [and The Perizite] [and The Canaanite] [and The Hivite] [and The Jebusite]; [and I will annihilate him].”

(Exodus 23:20–23) —my interim translation

The reason the messenger “carried *The Name*” of God at that time is because the ratification of the Mosaic Covenant regathered *the promise* that Jacob

had divided up among his sons. Since Corporate Israel was not actually a person who could “carry *The Name*” of God, *the promise* was placed in a messenger who could “carry *The Name*” for that Corporate body.

When Cain killed his brother Abel, he lost the right to “carry *The Name*.” That right then went to Seth, who was the next in line to *inherit the promise* from Adam. That is why Moses gives Seth’s lineage in Genesis 5; he is tracking *the promise* and giving the reader a fairly long list of every *heir of the promise* who “carried *The Name*” prior to the Flood:

<sup>3</sup>[When [Adam] had lived] [a hundred and] [thirty] [Years], [he engendered] {a son} [in his Likeness]—[like his Image]—[and he called] [his Name] “[Seth].” <sup>4</sup>[And [Adam’s] [Days] [after] [he engendered] [Seth] were] [eight] [Hundred] [Years], [and he engendered] {other} Sons [and Daughters]. <sup>5</sup>[So [all] [{the} Days of] [Adam] [that] [he lived] were] [nine] [hundred] [and thirty] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>6</sup>[When [Seth] had lived] [a hundred and] [five] [Years], [he then engendered] [Enosh]. <sup>7</sup>[Then [Seth] lived] [eight] [hundred] [and] [seven] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Enosh], [and he engendered] {other} Sons [and Daughters]. <sup>8</sup>[So [all of] [Seth’s] [Days] were] [nine] [hundred] [and] [twelve] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>9</sup>[When [Enosh] had lived] [ninety] [Years], [he then engendered] [Kenan]. <sup>10</sup>[Then [Enosh] lived] [eight] [hundred] [and] [fifteen] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Kenan], [and he engendered] {other} Sons [and Daughters]. <sup>11</sup>[So [all of] [Enosh’s] [Days] were] [nine] [hundred] [and] [five] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>12</sup>[When [Kenan] had lived] [seventy] [Years], [he engendered] [Mahalalel]. <sup>13</sup>[Then [Kenan] lived] [eight] [hundred] [and] [forty] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Mahalalel], [and he engendered] {other} Sons [and Daughters]. <sup>14</sup>[So [all of] [Kenan’s] [Days] were] [nine] [hundred] [and] [ten] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>15</sup>[When [Mahalalel] had lived] [sixty]-[five] [Years], [he engendered] [Jared]. <sup>16</sup>[Then [Mahalalel] lived] [eight] [hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Jared], [and he engendered] {other} Sons [and Daughters]. <sup>17</sup>[So [all of] [Mahalalel’s] [Days] were] [eight] [hundred] [and ninety]-[five] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>18</sup>[When [Jared] had lived] [a hundred and] [sixty]-[two] [Years], [he engendered] [Enoch]. <sup>19</sup>[Then [Jared] lived] [eight] [hundred] [Years] [after] [he engendered]

[Enoch], [and he engendered] [{other} Sons] [and Daughters]. <sup>20</sup>[So [all of] [Jared's] [Days] were] [nine [hundred] and] [sixty]-[two] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>21</sup>[When [Enoch] had lived] [sixty]-[five] [Years], [he engendered] [Methuselah]. <sup>22</sup>[Then [Enoch] walked] [with] [God] [three] [hundred] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Methuselah], [and he engendered] [{other} Sons] [and Daughters]. <sup>23</sup>[And [all of] [Enoch's] [Days] were] [three] [hundred] [and sixty]-[five] [Years]. <sup>24</sup>[And [Enoch] continually walked] [with] [God]; [and he was not], [because] [God] [took him].

<sup>25</sup>[When [Methuselah] had lived] [a hundred] [and eighty]-[seven] [Years], [he engendered] [Lamech]. <sup>26</sup>[Then [Methuselah] lived] [seven] [hundred] [and eighty]-[two] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Lamech], [and he engendered] [{other} Sons] [and Daughters]. <sup>27</sup>[So [all of] [Methuselah's] [Days] were] [nine] [hundred] [and sixty]-[nine] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>28</sup>[When [Lamech] had lived] [a hundred] [and eighty]-[two] [Years], [he engendered] [a Son]. <sup>29</sup>[And he called] [his Name] "[Noah]," [saying], "[This {one}] [will cause us to feel sorrowful] [because of What we Have Done] [and because of the Pain] [{of} our Hands] [because of] [The Ground] [that] [His Majesty] [irrevocably cursed]."<sup>30</sup>[Then [Lamech] lived] [five] [hundred] [and ninety]-[five] [Years] [after] [he engendered] [Noah], [and he engendered] [{other} Sons] [and Daughters]. <sup>31</sup>[So [all of] [Lamech's] [Days] were] [seven] [hundred] [and seventy]-[seven] [Years]. [Then he died].

<sup>32</sup>[When [Noah] was] [five] [hundred] [Years] [old], [Noah] [engendered] [Shem], [Ham], [and] [Japheth]. (Genesis 5:3–32) —my interim translation

That genealogy comes right after the genealogy of those who had been "cut off from" *the promise* in Genesis 4. The following list of *the heirs of the promise* who "carried The Name" of the Living Word of God after the Flood follows that same pattern. That is, it comes after the list of firstborn sons who were "cut off from" *the promise* because of the fiasco that was orchestrated at the Tower of Babel:

<sup>10</sup>These {are} the engenderings of Shem. Shem {was} a hundred years old when he engendered Arpachshad two years after the Flood. <sup>11</sup>Then after he engendered Arpachshad, Shem lived five hundred years, and he engendered sons and daughters.

<sup>12</sup>Arpachshad had lived thirty-five years when he engendered Shelah. <sup>13</sup>Then Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years after he engendered Shelah, and he had {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup>Shelah had lived thirty years when he engendered Eber. <sup>15</sup>Then Shelah lived four hundred and three years after he engendered Eber, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>16</sup>When Eber had lived thirty-four years, he engendered Peleg. <sup>17</sup>Then Eber lived four hundred and thirty years after he engendered Peleg, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>18</sup>When Peleg had lived thirty years, he engendered Reu. <sup>19</sup>Then Peleg lived two hundred and nine years after he engendered Reu, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup>When Reu had lived thirty-two years, he engendered Serug. <sup>21</sup>Then Reu lived two hundred and seven years after he engendered Serug, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>22</sup>When Serug had lived thirty years, he engendered Nahor. <sup>23</sup>Then Serug lived two hundred years after he engendered Nahor, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>24</sup>When Nahor had lived twenty-nine years, he engendered Terah. <sup>25</sup>Then Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years after he engendered Terah, and he engendered {other} sons and daughters.

<sup>26</sup>When Terah had lived seventy years, he engendered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

<sup>27</sup>These {are} the engenderings of Terah. Terah engendered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran engendered Lot. <sup>28</sup>Then Haran died before his father Terah in the land of the kinfolk he had—in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup>Then Abram and Nahor took women for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. <sup>30</sup>But Sarai was barren; she did not have child.

<sup>31</sup>Then Terah took Abram, his son, and Lot, the son of Haran (the son of his son), and Sarai, his Daughter-in-law (the woman of Abram, his son), and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go toward The land of Canaan. They went as far as Haran, and they settled there. <sup>32</sup>When the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, Terah died in Haran. (Genesis 11:10–32) —my interim translation

By means of that simple segue, Moses turns from a relatively bare-bones history of *the promise* to a more detailed account; and the first thing he does is make sure the reader knows Abram has become *the heir of the promise*:

<sup>1</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Abram]:  
 “[Go], [by Yourself],  
 [Away from Your Land],  
 [And away from Your Kinfolk],  
 [And away from {the} House] [of Your Father],  
 [To The Land] [that] [I will show You].  
<sup>2</sup>[Then I will make You] [into a [great] Nation],  
 [And I will **ble**ss You],  
 [And I will make [Your Name] great],  
 [And He will be] [a **Blessing**];  
<sup>3</sup>[I will **ble**ss] [those who **ble**ss You],  
 [But [I will irrevocably curse]  
     the one who considers You despicable].  
 [And [all] [{the} Families of] [The Ground]  
     will be blessed] [in You].”  
 (Genesis 12:1–3) —my interim translation

The next thing Moses tells us God did is make a “last will and testament” in which He named Abram as His *heir*:

<sup>13</sup>[Then He said] [to Abram]: “[Know] [for certain] [that] [Your Seed] [will be] [a Temporary Resident] [in a Land] [that is [not] theirs], [and they will enslave] [them] [and humiliate] [them] [four] [hundred] [Years]. <sup>14</sup>[But [I] am [also] going to adjudicate {their} case against] [The Nation] [that] [they work for], [and after] [that] [they will go out] [with [a large amount of] Personal Property]. <sup>15</sup>[But You] [will go] [to] [Your Fathers] [in Peace]. [You will be buried] [at a [good] Old Age]. <sup>16</sup>[But {after} a [fourth] Generation] [they will return] [here], [because] [{the} Reprehensible Activity] [of the Amorite] {will} [not] {be} [complete] [until] [then].” <sup>17</sup>[Then] [The Sun] [went down] [and [there was] a Nether Darkness]. [Then guess what!] {There was} [a [smoking] Oven] [and a Torch] [of Fire] [that] [passed] [between] [These] [Split Pieces]. <sup>18</sup>[On [That] Day], [His Majesty] [cut] [a Legal Agreement] [with] [Abram], [saying]:

“[I will give] [Your Seed] [This] [Land],  
 [From {the} River] [of Egypt] [as far as]  
 [The [great] River], [{the} [Euphrates] River]:

<sup>19</sup>[The Kenite] [and] [The Kenizzite] [and] [The Kadmonite\*] <sup>20</sup>[and] [The Hittite] [and] [The Perizzite] [and] [The Rephaim] <sup>21</sup>[and] [The Amorite] [and] [The Canaanite] [and] [The Gergashite] [and] [The Jebusite].”  
 (Genesis 15:13–21) —my interim translation

Later on, the Lord changed Abram’s name to Abraham and *promised* him that He would provide him an *heir* who would be *the* next *heir of the promise*. But He also expanded the nature of *the heir of the promise* to include all the members of “The House” of *the heir*. The only requirement He imposed on them was that each male had to be circumcised in order to be included; otherwise, he would be “cut off from” *the promise*:

<sup>1</sup>[Then, when [Abram] was] [ninety]-[nine] [Years] [old], [His Majesty] [appeared] [to] [Abram] [and said] [to him]:

“[I am] [El] [Shaddai];  
 [Walk] [before Me], [and be] [without defect].  
<sup>2</sup>[And I will put] [My Legal Agreement]  
     [between Me] [and You],  
 [And I will increase] [You] [tremendously].”

<sup>3</sup>[Then [Abram] fell] [on] [his Face], [and [God] spoke] [with him], [saying]:

<sup>4</sup>“[As for Me], [guess what!] [My Legal Agreement]  
     {is} [with You],  
 [So You will become] [{the} Father] [of a Multitude]  
     [of Nations].

<sup>5</sup>[So [Your Name] will [not] be called] [Abram]  
     [any longer];  
 [But [Your Name] will be] [Abraham],  
 [Because] [I will make You] [{the} Father]  
     [of a Multitude] [of Nations].

<sup>6</sup>[So I will make [You] bear fruit] [tremendously],  
 [And I will make You] [into Nations],  
 [And Kings] [will come out] [of You].

<sup>7</sup>[Then I will confirm] [My Legal Agreement]  
 [between Me] [and You] [and] [Your Seed] [after You]  
 [throughout their Generations] [as an [eternally burning]  
 Legal Agreement], [to be] [God] [to You] [and to Your  
 Seed] [after You]. <sup>8</sup>[Then I will give] [You]—[and  
 Your Seed] [after You]—[The Land] [of Your Places of

Sojourning]—[all] [The Land] [of Canaan]—[as an [eternally burning] Property]; [and I will be] [their] [God].”

<sup>9</sup>[Then [God] said] [to] [Abraham]: “[But You] [must observe] [My Legal Agreement], [You] [and Your Seed] [after You] [throughout their Generations]. <sup>10</sup>[This {is}] [My Legal Agreement], [which] [you must observe]—[between Me] [and you] [and Your Seed] [after You]: [Every] [Male] [You have] {is} [to be circumcised]. <sup>11</sup>[So you must circumcise] [{the} Flesh] [of your Foreskin], [and it will be] [a Sign] [{of the} Legal Agreement] [between Me] [and you]. <sup>12</sup>[And [every] [eight]-[Day]-old] [Male] [you have] [must be circumcised] [throughout your Generations], [one who is engendered] [{in Your} House] [or One Acquired] [with Silver] [from any] [Son] [of a Foreigner], [who] [is] [not] [one of Your Seed]. <sup>13</sup>[One who is engendered] [{in} Your House] [or One Acquired] [with Your Silver] [must [definitely] be circumcised], [so that [My Legal Agreement] is] [in your Flesh] [as an [eternally burning] Legal Agreement]. <sup>14</sup>[But an uncircumcised] [Male] [who] [is [not] circumcised] [{in the} Flesh] [of his Foreskin], [That] [Soul] [will be cut off] [from its People]; [he has made [My Legal Agreement] null and void].”

<sup>15</sup>[Then [God] said] [to] [Abraham]: “[As for] [Sarai], [Your Woman], [You must [not] call] [her Name] [Sarai], [because] [her Name] {is} [Sarah]. <sup>16</sup>[And I will bless] [her], [and I will [even] give] [You] [a Son] [from her]. [Then I will bless her], [and she will become] [Nations]; [Kings of] [Peoples] [will come] [from her].” (Genesis 17:1–16) —my interim translation

The next thing Moses tells us about *the promise* is intended to make sure we know Isaac was the next *heir of the promise* in possession of *the promise*:

<sup>1</sup>[Then there was] [a Famine] [in {the} Land]—[besides] [The [first] Famine] [that] [was] [during {the} Days of] [Abraham]. [So Isaac] [went] [to Gerar], [to] [Abimelech], [King] [of {the} Philistines]. <sup>2</sup>[So [His Majesty] appeared] [to him] [and said]: “[You must [not] go down] [to Egypt]. [Reside] [in {the} Land] [that] [I tell you]. <sup>3</sup>[Reside temporarily] [in [This] Land]; [and I will be] [with You] [and bless You] [when] [I give] [all] [These] [Lands] [to You] [and to Your Seed] [and confirm] [The] [Sworn Oath] [that] [I swore] [to Abraham], [Your Father]. <sup>4</sup>[So I will make [Your Seed] many more]—[like {the} Stars of] [The Sea of Waters]—[and give] [all] [These] [Lands] [to Your Seed]; [and [all]

[{the} Nations of] [The Earth] will be **blessed**] [in Your Seed], <sup>5</sup>[as a result of] [Abraham] [listening] [to My Voice]—[My Commandments], [My Statutes], [and My Teachings]—[and pulling] [My Guard Duty].” <sup>6</sup>[So [Isaac] stayed] [in Gerar].

(Genesis 26:1–6) —my interim translation

I’m sure you are familiar with the account of how Jacob took *the promise* away from his brother Esau, so I won’t bore you with the details; I have already explained them in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*. It is enough that you know where Moses lets us know that Jacob had become *the heir of the promise* and was in sole possession of *the promise*:

<sup>1</sup>[Then [Isaac] called out] [to] [Jacob] [and **blessed**] [him]; [and he commanded him] [and said] [to him]: “[You can [not] take] [a Woman] [from {the} Daughters of] [Canaan]. <sup>2</sup>[Get up]! [Go] [to Padan-aram], [to {the} House] [of Bethuel], [{the} Father of] [Your Mother]; [and take] [a Woman] [for Yourself] [from there]—[from {the} Daughters of] [Laban], [{the} Brother of] [Your Mother]. <sup>3</sup>[Then **El**] [**Shaddai**] [will bless] [You] [and make You bear fruit] [and make You become many], [so that You become] [a Congregation] [of Peoples]. <sup>4</sup>[And He will give] [**The**] [**Blessing** of] [Abraham] [to You]—[to You] [and to Your Seed] [along with You]—[so that You take possession of] [The] [Land] [of {the} Places of Your Sojourning] [that] [God] [gave] [to Abraham].” (Genesis 28:1–4) —my interim translation

In the next article in this series, I will explain how Jacob, in the wisdom of God, divided *the promise* up and gave various parts of it to his sons. As a result, it was necessary for God—through Moses—to gather up those parts of *the promise* and entrust them to His Firstborn Son, Corporate Israel, via the vehicle of the Old Covenant. In the meantime, I strongly recommend that you preview *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*.

## Bibliographic Information

In “Transliteration Is Not Translation,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2008, p. 2, I give the following summary of *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*:

*In The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1, I explained what you need to know about the promise,*

the inheritance of the promise, and the inheritance of what was promised. I explained that the promise is nothing more than The Teaching that explains how God fulfilled the promise He made to Adam and Eve. He promised them He would take a man and create the man in His Own image and likeness. I told you God did that with "The Man" Jesus Christ.

But I reminded you that God also promised He would create other descendants of Adam—both male and female—in His Own image and likeness. I explained that those are the True Believers who will be resurrected in the image and likeness of God because they believed the promise He made. Then I told you how you can become one of those who will be created in the image and likeness of God at the End of the Age. I said all you have to do is believe the promise when you have opportunity to hear it. When you believe the promise, you thereby inherit the promise as an heir of Jesus Christ and you become a member of the Body of Jesus Christ—the One Who is Corporate Israel.

In "The Living Word of God Will Never Change," *The Voice of Elijah*® Update, December 2005, pp. 10–12, I point out how God made various promises to different individuals down through history and how those promises merely reflect some facet of the original promise that God made to Adam. I distinguish between various facets of the promise: the blessing of Abraham, the promise of the Spirit, and the promise of resurrection in the image and likeness of God.

In "If Time Were Not a Moving Thing ...," *The Voice of Elijah*® Update, June 2006, pp. 14–16, I focus on the promise God made to Abraham about his seed being LIKE the stars.

In "A Simple Definition: Inheritance Means Somebody Died," *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2007, pp. 3–5, I explain that the promise began as prophecy in an oral tradition that was handed down from one generation to the next as an inheritance; and it gradually became a recounting of history as more and more facets of the promise were fulfilled. I also explain that the vehicle by which the promise was handed down was an oral blessing that was received by belief.

In the article "Irenæus Knew All About the Inheritance of the Promise," *The Voice of Elijah*® Update, March 2008, pp. 6–7, I point out that Irenæus' comment on how the inheritance was "thrown open" to both Jews and Gentiles after the death of Christ is actually

focused on the fact that those who are resurrected in the image and likeness of God at the end of the sixth "day" of Creation will live on the Earth during the seventh "day" of rest.

In "Two Perspectives, One Truth," *The Voice of Elijah*® Update, August 2010, pp. 6–9, I summarize the things I explained about Irenæus' understanding of the promise in the May and June issue of that newsletter. My purpose was to show that both Paul and Irenæus understood the continuity that exists between the Old Testament and the New resides in the promise of God.

In *Not All Israel Is Israel*, I explain various other things one needs to know about the promise. I said God confirmed the promise to the Patriarchs in the same way each time because it was the same promise. I also told you the promise and the blessing can be used interchangeably because the promise was handed down as an oral blessing.

In "Questions & Answers," *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 2002, pp. 22–28, I answer the following question:

*In Galatians 3:14–29 there are nine specific references by the Apostle Paul to the promise and/or the promises of God. I want to ask you about those references in general and about the promise in particular. Ten years ago when I first read Not All Israel Is Israel, I was inclined to believe that any reference to the promise in the Scriptures was always a reference to the promise that God made Abraham in Genesis 12:1–3. Since that time, however, I have come to understand that God made other promises to other individuals, such as the promise He made to King David in 2 Samuel 7, or the promise of the New Covenant and the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit that He made known through the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31–34). So here is my question: Should we view all of these promises as part of the promise? Also, you have stated on numerous occasions that The Teaching is both the promise and God's Word. While I can see that God's promise is His Word (and vice versa), it still seems that the complexities of The Teaching—God's Word—entail more than just the promise. Would you clarify this issue a bit more?*

The foregoing references are just a few of the many places where I have explained bits and pieces of information related to the promise that has been handed down to this generation by generations of faithful Believers. Stay tuned. ■



**T**he Voice of Elijah® publishes articles based on the findings of The Elijah Project, a private research group headed by Larry D. Harper. In this column we seek answers to general-interest questions concerning the findings, purpose, and philosophy of this project.

**Editor:** *This inquiry is from a married woman who has a question regarding submission. She says:*

*"God bless Larry and all the brothers and sisters who collaborate in The Voice of Elijah. Recently I read the January 2009 newsletter. In 'Questions & Answers,' Larry told us that a woman who is one flesh with her man is under his authority. I understand that. But I have a question: My husband is unregenerate. The things that I learn reading Larry is the answer of my prayers. I want to learn more to walk in The Way and to be prepared for the appearance of the Antichrist. What does God think about a woman who wants to learn, but her husband rejects The Truth of The Living Word Who God is? Larry also said: 'God's primary concern is always whether one has the authority to do whatever one decides to do.' Is it correct that God is concerned that a woman seeks for The Truth and learns The Teaching?"*

**Elijah:** The issue of submission to authority is a tricky one, to be sure; and the only way to sort it out is to keep in mind the fact that all authority derives from God. Therefore, anyone who oversteps the bounds of the authority he has been given has no authority at all to do what he is doing. That should be obvious from Luke's account of how the Apostles dealt with the Jews' demand that they stop preaching the Gospel. He says this:

<sup>1</sup>[So then] [Peter] [and] [John] [were going up] [to] [The] [Temple] [at] [The] [Hour] [of] [Prayer]—[the] [ninth {hour}]—<sup>2</sup>[and] [some] [Man] [who had been] [lame] [from] [his] [Mother's] [Belly] [was being carried]: (1) [one whom] [they put down] [each and every] [Day] [at] [The] [Door] [of The] [Temple] [that] [is called] [beautiful], [to] [request] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate] [from] [those who] [were going in] [to] [The] [Temple];<sup>3</sup>(2) [one who], [after seeing] [Peter] [and] [John]—[who were about] [to go in] [to] [The] [Temple]—[was asking] [to receive] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate].<sup>4</sup>[So] [after staring] [at] [him]—[along with] [John]—[Peter] [said], "[Look] [at] [us]!"<sup>5</sup>[So] [he] [focused attention on] [them], [expecting] [to receive] [something] [from] [them].<sup>6</sup>[But] [Peter] [said]: "[I] [do [not] have] [Silver] [and] [Gold], [but] [I am going to give] [You] [This]—[what] [I do have]. [In] [The] [Name] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One], [The] [Nazarene], [get up] [and] [walk]!"<sup>7</sup>[And] [after laying hold of] [him] [with his] [right] [Hand], [he got] [him] up. [And then] [his] [Insteps\*] [and] [his] [Ankles\*] [were [immediately] made firm];<sup>8</sup>[so] [springing right up\*], [he stood up] [and] [began walking around]. [Then] [he came in] [to] [The] [Temple] [along with] [them], [walking around] [and] [springing up] [and] [praising] [The] [{Living} God].<sup>9</sup>[So] [all] [The] [People] [saw] [him] [walking around] [and] [praising] [The] [{Living} God],<sup>10</sup>[and then] [they recognized] [him]—[that] [he] [was] [the one who] [had been sitting] [at] [The] [beautiful] [Gate] [of The] [Temple] [for] [The] [Contribution to the Less Fortunate]—[and] [they were filled full] [of Astonishment] [and] [an Ecstatic State] [over] [what] [had happened] [to him].

<sup>11</sup>[So] [while] [he] was grabbing hold of] [Peter] [and] [John], [all] [The] [People] [ran together] [to] [them] [at] [The] [Portico] [that] [is called] [Solomon's], [completely astonished\*].<sup>12</sup>[But] [when] [Peter] saw {they had gathered}, [he responded] [to] [The] [People]: "[Israelite] [Men], [why] [are you amazed] [by] [This]? [Or] [why] [are you staring] [at us] [like] [{we} made] [him] [walk] [by our own] [Supernatural Power] [or] [Godliness]?<sup>13</sup>[The] [God] [of Abraham] [and] [The] [God] [of Isaac] [and] [The] [God] [of Jacob]—[The] [God] [of] [our] [Fathers]—[has glorified] [His] [Boy] [Jesus], [the One that] [you] [did, [in fact], hand over] [and] [deny]—[Face to Face] [with Pilate], [after] [That Individual] decided] [to release {Him}].<sup>14</sup>[So] [you] [denied] [the One Who was] [holy] [and] [blameless]; [and] [you requested] [that] [a Man], [a Murderer], be granted as a favor] [to you];<sup>15</sup>[and

then] [you killed] [The] [Founder] [of] [Life], [the One Whom] [The] [{Living} God] [raised] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[of which] [we] [are] [Witnesses]. <sup>16</sup>[And] [His] [Name] [made] [This Individual], [whom] [you observe] [and] [know], firm [on the basis of] [my] [Belief in God's **Promise**] [regarding] [His] [Name]; [and] [my] [Belief in God's **Promise**]—[the one that is] [via] [Him]—[gave] [him] [This] [Perfect Health\*] [in opposition to] [all] [of you]. <sup>17</sup>[So] [now], [Brothers], [I am aware] [that] [you were acting] [in accordance with] [Ignorance], [indeed, just as] [your] [Rulers] [also] [did]. <sup>18</sup>[But] [The] [{Living} God] [has] [in this way] fulfilled [what] [He proclaimed beforehand] [via] [{the} Mouth] [of all] [The] [Prophets]—[that] [His] [Anointed One] would suffer. <sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [apologize] [and] [turn back], [so] [that] [your] [Sins] [may be wiped out], <sup>20</sup>[so that] [Times] [of an Uplifted Soul\*] [might] [come] [from] [{the} Presence] [of] [His Majesty]; [and] [He would send] [Jesus], [The] [Anointed One] [Who has been hand-picked] [for you], <sup>21</sup>[the One Whom] [Heaven] [does, in fact, have] [to accept] [up to] [{the} Span of Time] [of {the} Complete Restoration\*] [of everything] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [has spoken] [via] [{the} Mouth] [of] [His] [holy] [Prophets] [from] [a Past Age]. <sup>22</sup>[Moses] [did, in fact, say] [that] [His Majesty], [YOUR] [GOD], [WILL RAISE UP] [A PROPHET] [LIKE] [ME] [FOR YOU] [FROM] [YOUR] [BROTHERS]; [YOU MUST HEED] [HIM], [in agreement with] [everything], [as much as] [it might be that] [He speaks] [to] [you]; <sup>23</sup>[but] [it will be {that}] [every] [Soul], [whomever] [it may be, who] [does] [not] heed [That] [Prophet] [will be completely eradicated\*] [from] [The] [People]. <sup>24</sup>[So] [also] [all] [The] [Prophets] [from] [Samuel] on—[and] [those] [in sequence]—[as many as] [spoke] [also] [proclaimed] [These] [Days]. <sup>25</sup>[You] [are] [The] [Sons] [of The] [Prophets] [and] [The] [Testament] [by which] [The] [{Living} God] [made a bequest to] [your] [Fathers] by a testament], [saying] [to] [Abraham], [AND] [ALL] [THE] [LINEAGES] [OF THE] [EARTH] [WILL BE **BLESSED**] [IN] [YOUR] [SEED]. <sup>26</sup>[After] [The] [{Living} God] [raised up] [His] [Boy], [He has sent] [Him] [to you] [first], [ **blessing**] [you] [by] [turning] [every one of {you}] away [from] [your] [Evil Intentions].”

<sup>1</sup>[But then], [while] [they] were speaking [to] [The] [People], [The] [Priests] [and] [The] [Military Commander] [of The] [Temple] [confronted] [them]—[even] [The] [Sadducees], <sup>2</sup>[who were irritated] [because of] [them] [teaching] [The] [People] [and] [proclaiming] [The] [Resurrection] [that is] [from] [Those Who Are

Dead] [through] [Jesus]. <sup>3</sup>[So] [they put] [their] [Hands] on] [them] [and] [put {them} down] [into] [a Keep] [for] [The] [Next Day], [for] [it was] [already] [Evening]. <sup>4</sup>[But] [a Lot] [of those who] [heard] [The] [Word] [believed God's **promise**], [and] [The] [Number] [of The] [Men] [was] [about] [five] [Thousand]. <sup>5</sup>[And then], [on] [The] [Next Day], [it happened] [that] [their] [Rulers] [and] [Elders] [and] [Scribes] were gathered] [in] [Jerusalem]—<sup>6</sup>[even] [Annas], [The] [High Priest], [and] [Caiaphas] [and] [John] [and] [Alexander] [and] [as many as] [were] [part] [of {the} [high-priestly\*] Kindred]. <sup>7</sup>[And] [after making] [them] stand up] [in] [their] [Midst], [they were inquiring], “[By] [what] [Supernatural Power], [or] [by] [what] [Name], [did] [you] do [This]?” <sup>8</sup>[Being filled full] [of a] [holy] Spirit] [at that time], [Peter] [said] [to] [them]: “[Rulers] [of The] [People] [and] [Elders], <sup>9</sup>[if] [we] [are being questioned] [Today] [about] [a Good Deed] {done} [for a] [sick] Man]—[how] [This Individual] [has been saved]—<sup>10</sup>[let it be] [known] [to you] [all] [and] [to all] [The] [People] [of Israel] [that] [by] [The] [Name] [of Jesus]—[The Anointed One], [The] [Nazarene] [Whom] [you] [crucified], [the One Whom] [The] [{Living} God] [raised] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[by] [This {name}] [This Individual] [is present] [before] [you] [sound]. <sup>11</sup>[This Individual] [is] [THE] [STONE] [WHO] [WAS VIEWED WITH CONTEMPT] [by] [you], [THE] [BUILDERS\*], [THE ONE WHO] [TURNED] [INTO] [{the} HEAD] [OF A CORNER]. <sup>12</sup>[And] [Salvation] [is] [not] [in] [anybody] [else], [for] [neither] [is there] [another] [Name] [under] [Heaven] [that] [has been given] [among] [Men] [by] [which] [we] [have] [to be saved].”

<sup>13</sup>[So then], [observing] [The] [Self-assurance] [of] [Peter] [and] [John] [and] [grasping] [that] [they were] [illiterate\*] [and] [ungifted] [Men], [they were amazed]; [and then] [they recognized] [them]—[that] [they had been] [together with] [Jesus]. <sup>14</sup>[And also], [seeing] [The] [Man] [who] [had been cured] [standing] [together with] [them], [they did] [not] have {any way} [to refute {them}]. <sup>15</sup>[So], [after giving] [them] an order] [to go] [out] [of The] [Council], [they began to meet] [with] [one another], <sup>16</sup>[saying]: “[What] [should we do] [to] [These] [Men]? [For]—[because]—[a] [known] Sign] [has, in fact], become] [well-known] [to all] [who] [are dwelling in] [Jerusalem] [via] [them]; [and] [we can] [not] [deny {it}]. <sup>17</sup>[But] [so that] [it may] [not] be disseminated\*] [to] [The] [People] [any longer], [we must threaten] [them] [not] [to speak] [at all] [to any] [Men] [at all] [about] [This] [Name].” <sup>18</sup>[So], [after summoning] [them], [they instruct-

ed {them}}] [not] [to] [speak anything [at all\*] openly]—[or] [to teach]—[about] [The] [Name] [of] [Jesus]. <sup>19</sup>[But] [in response], [Peter] [and] [John] [said] [to] [them]: “Is it [right] [in the sight of] [The] [{Living} God] [to heed] [you] [rather] [than] [The] [{Living} God]? [You decide], <sup>20</sup>[for] [we] [can] [not], [not] [talk about] [what] [we have seen] [and] [heard].”  
(Acts 3:1–4:20) —HSSB

Some dimwitted “scholars” use that account to teach a warped theology they call “situational ethics.” I prefer to use it to teach concerning authority and the equally dimwitted dullards who stupidly overstep the bounds of whatever legitimate authority they have in the sight of God. The leaders of the Jews had no authority to tell Peter and John what they could or could not say. Look at it this way: If a police officer stops a woman and demands that she have sexual intercourse with him, it should be obvious to her and everyone else that he has no authority to do that. Consequently, she has no obligation to comply with his demands. The same thing applies to every other situation where someone who wields a legitimate authority steps outside the limits of their authority. They have thereby relinquished the authority they legitimately had.

Now let me address the issue of the authority God has given the man over the woman with whom he has a one-flesh relationship. Just keep in mind the fact that what I say here applies only to those who accept it as true. It does not apply to anyone who rejects it, and it certainly does not apply to the world at large. It applies only to those for whom the New Testament was written; all others have been reading someone else’s mail, mistakenly assuming it was written to them.

Twenty-two years ago, I wrote a fairly lengthy article for the September issue of *The Voice of Elijah*<sup>®</sup> *Update* in which I talked about the authority structure of the Church. (See “What’s Left of the Right That Stayed Down When He Went Up?” *The Voice of Elijah*<sup>®</sup> *Update*, September 1995.) That article has since been published in a booklet titled *7 Simple Steps to Salvation*. In it, I explain that an Evangelist has authority to preach the Gospel message *outside* the Church, but no authority to teach Believers *inside* the Church. If he does so, he has overstepped the limits of his authority and will be required to answer for that mistaken

assumption. The passage that I referred to in the original article is this one:

<sup>1</sup>[Therefore], [I]—[The] [Prisoner] [in] [His Majesty]—[implore] [you] [to walk] [worthy] [of The] [Invitation] [with which] [you were invited]: <sup>2</sup>(1) [with] [all] [Humility] [and] [Gentleness], (2) [with] [Patience], (3) [while putting up with] [one another] [in] [Love], <sup>3</sup>(4) [making every effort] [to keep] [The] [Unity] [of The] [Spirit] [by] [The] [Sinew] [of your] [Peace]: <sup>4</sup>(a) [one] [Body]; [and] (b) [one] [Spirit]; [just as] [you have] [also] [been invited] [with] (c) [one] [Hope] [in The] [Invitation] [you have]; <sup>5</sup>(d) [one] [Master]; (e) [one] [Belief in God’s **Promise**]; (f) [one] [Baptism]; <sup>6</sup>(g) [one] [God] [and] [Father] [of everyone]—[the {God} Who is] [over] [every-one] [and] [through] [everyone] [and] [in] [everyone].

<sup>7</sup>[But] [His] [Favor] [has been given] [to every] [One] [of us] [in accordance with] [The] [Measure] [of The] [Bequest] [of The] [Anointed One]. <sup>8</sup>[Wherefore], [He says]:

“[AFTER GOING UP] [ON] [HIGH],  
[HE TOOK] [A PRISONER OF WAR CAMP]  
AS PRISONER OF WAR\*];  
[HE GAVE] [PRESENTS] [TO] [MEN].”

<sup>9</sup>[But] [the {statement}], “[He went up]”—[What] [is] [it] [if] [not] [that] [He] [also] [went down] [into] [The] [lower\*] [Parts] [of The] [Earth]? <sup>10</sup>[The One Who] [went down] [is] [Himself] [also] [the One Who] [went up]—[up above] [all] [The] [Heavens]—[so that] [He could completely fill] [Every Last Thing]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [He] [gave]: (1) [some] [as Apostles], (2) [others] [as Prophets], (3) [others] [as Evangelists], (4) [others] [as Shepherds] [and] [as Teachers]: <sup>12</sup>(a) [for] [The] [Equipping\*] [of The] [Holy Ones], (b) [for] [a Work] [of Serving], (c) [for] [Edification] [of The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: <sup>13</sup>(1) [until] [we—] [Every Last One]—come down]: (a) [to] [our] [Unity] [on the basis of our] [Belief in God’s Promise] [and] [our] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [regarding The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God], (b) [to] [a [complete] Man], (c) [to] [a Measure] [of {the} Stature] [of The] [Fullness] [of The] [Anointed One]; <sup>14</sup>(2) [so that] [we would] [no longer] [be] [Toddlers] [who are being tossed about by billowing waves\*] [and] [carried around]: (a) [by every] [Wind] [of their] [Teaching], (b) [by] [The] [Trickery\*] [of] [Men], (c) [by] [Dishonesty] [of] [The] [Tactic] [of

*their* [Deception]; <sup>15</sup>(3) [but], [while speaking the truth] [in] [Love], [we would—[Every Last One]—grow] [into] [Him]: (a) [Who] [is] [our] [Head]—[The Anointed One]; <sup>16</sup>(b) [from] [Whom] [The] [whole] [Body]—[which is being precisely framed together] [and] [all put together] [via] [The] [Abundant Provision] [of every] [Ligament], [in accordance with] [{the} Energy] [in] [{the} Measure] [of [each] one's] [Part]—[produces], [through] [Love], [The] [Growth] [of The] [Body] [into] [His Own] [Building].

<sup>17</sup>[Therefore], [I am saying] [This], [and] [I am testifying] [for] [His Majesty] [so that [you] would [no longer] walk]—[just as] [The] [Gentiles] [also] [walk]—[in] [{the} Futility] [of] [their] [Mind]: <sup>18</sup>(1) [those who are] [darkened] [in their] [Understanding]; (2) [those who have been estranged from] [The] [Life] [of The] [{Living} God]: (a) [because of] [The] [Ignorance] [that] [is] [in] [them] (b) [because of] [The] [Hardness] [of] [their] [Heart]; <sup>19</sup>(3) [those who], [having become totally senseless\*], [have], [through] [Selfishness], handed [themselves] over [to] [Licentiousness] [for] [a Business] [of [all] Uncleaness].

<sup>20</sup>[But] [you] [did [not] learn] [The] [Anointed One] [in this way], <sup>21</sup>[if] [indeed] [you have heard] [Him] [and] [have been taught] [by] [Him], [just as] [Truth] [is] [in] [Jesus]: <sup>22</sup>(1) [so that [you] set aside] [The] [old] [Man], [the one that] [is being beguiled]: (a) [by] [your] [previous\*] [Behavior], (b) [by] [your] [Selfish Desires] [with their] [Deceit]; <sup>23</sup>[and then] (2) [so that {you} may be restored to youth\*] [in The] [Spirit] [of] [your] [Mind]; <sup>24</sup>[and] (3) [so that {you} may slip on] [The] [new] [Man], [the One Who] [was created] [corresponding to] [God] [by] [a Declaration of Not Guilty] [and] [{your} Devotion] [to The] [Truth].

(Ephesians 4:1–24) —HSSB

I mentioned the authority of an Evangelist earlier simply because Jesus Christ invested each of the offices within the Church with a specific authority, and He imposed a requirement on each of those offices that the holder of the office submit to an even higher authority. As I have already stated, the authority of an Evangelist ended when an unregenerate person responded to his message, was born again, and became a member of a local church. That is where the authority of the Teacher began. But the Teacher was required to submit to the correction of the Prophet, just as the Prophet had to submit to the authority of the Apostle who had established the church. The layman, on the other hand, was

expected to submit to the authority of all of the men appointed to an office in the church. So how did the woman in a one-flesh relationship fit into this apostolic authority structure? The answer lies in this passage:

<sup>26</sup>[Therefore], [what] [is it going to be], [Brothers]? [When] [you come together], [each one]: (1) [is going to have] [a Psalm], (2) [is going to have] [a Doctrinal Teaching], (3) [is going to have] [a Revelation], (4) [is going to have] [a Tongue], (5) [is going to have] [a Translation]. [Let [everything] be done] [for] [Edification]. <sup>27</sup>[And if] [anyone] [speaks] [in a Tongue], {it should be} [by] [Two]—[or] [at [the] most] [by Three]—[and] [each {one}] {may have} [a Part]; [yet] [One] [must interpret]. <sup>28</sup>[But] [if] [there is] [no] [Interpreter\*], [he must be silent] [in] [{the} Summoned Assembly] [and then] [speak] [to himself] [and] [to The] [{Living} God]. <sup>29</sup>[So] [let [two] [or] [three] [Prophets] speak], [and] [let [The] [Others] make a determination based on {what is said}]. <sup>30</sup>[But then] [if] [something is revealed] [to another] [who is seated], [let [The] [First] be silent]. <sup>31</sup>[For] [everyone] [can] [prophesy], [one [by] one], [so that] [everyone] [may learn] [and] [everyone] [may be encouraged]. <sup>32</sup>[And] [{the} Spirits] [of Prophets] [are submissive] [to Prophets]; <sup>33</sup>[for] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [not] [about Rebellion], [but] [about Peace], [as] {they are} [in] [all] [The] [Summoned Assemblies] [of The] [Holy Ones].

<sup>34</sup>[The] [Women] [must be silent] [in] [The] [Summoned Assemblies], [for] [it is [not] permissible] [for them] [to speak]. [But] [they must be submissive], [just as] [The] [Law] [also] [says]. <sup>35</sup>[And then], [if] [they want] [to learn] [anything], [let them ask [their] [own] [Men] a question] [at] [Home], [for] [it is] [shameful] [for a Woman] [to speak] [in] [a Summoned Assembly]. <sup>36</sup>[Did [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God] [either] come out] [from] [you], [or] [come down] [for] [you], [alone]?

(1 Corinthians 14:26–36) —HSSB

As you can see, the requirement for submission on the part of a woman in a one-flesh relationship was something that very few in our day would ever accept. The authority structure of the local church placed her completely under the authority of her man. Never fear, the authority that the Apostles had to assemble Believers and impose on them the authority structure of the Apostolic Church no longer exists. That is because *The Apostolic Teaching*—from which the

Apostles derived their apostolic authority—no longer exists. But even if *The Apostolic Teaching* were to be *restored*, there would still be no need for Believers to assemble under the terms of the apostolic authority. That is because the reason for assembling Believers in the Apostolic Church was not for socializing, as it is today. Instead, it revolved around Teachers *handing down* *The Apostolic Teaching* to the next generation of Believers just as Jesus instructed them:

<sup>16</sup>[But] [The] [eleven] [Disciples] [went] [into] [Galilee], [to] [The] [Mountain] [that] [Jesus] [had assigned] [to them]. <sup>17</sup>[And] [after seeing] [Him], [they paid homage]; [but] [they] [were dubious]. <sup>18</sup>[And] [after [Jesus] approached], [He spoke] [to them], [saying]: “[All] [Authority] [in] [Heaven] [and] [on] [Earth] [has been given] [to Me]. <sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [go]! [Make disciples of] [all] [The] [Gentiles]: (1) [baptizing] [them] [into] [The] [Name] [of The] [Father] [and] [of The] [Son] [and] [of The] [holy] [Spirit], <sup>20</sup>(2) [teaching] [them] [to keep watch over] [everything]—[as much as] [I gave a commandment] [to you]. [And] [guess what!] [I] [Am] [always] [with] [you], [until] [The] [Consummation] [of The] [Current Age].”  
(Matthew 28:16–20) —HSSB

The only way the Church could carry out Jesus' instructions at that time was by Evangelists preaching the Gospel and Teachers teaching *The Teaching* face to face. God did not call me to preach the Gospel, but He did call me to *restore* and teach *The Teaching*. But I make no bones about it: The need for a Teacher to teach face to face no longer exists simply because there are so many other ways for a Teacher to *hand down* *The Teaching* today. Take your pick:

CD  
DVD  
USB  
Podcast  
Live streaming  
Internet download

As you can see, should *The Apostolic Teaching* ever be *restored*, it is—in the wisdom of God—no great loss that the Apostle's authority to assemble Believers and impose an authority structure on them no longer exists. But the authority that a man has over a woman in a

one-flesh relationship does not derive from the apostolic authority; it derives from the authority that God Himself imposed on the one-flesh relationship. Consequently, the authority a man has over his “better half” continues to this very day; and it will continue for every day that is yet to come. But there are a few other things you need to take into account if you ever intend to understand the rights and responsibilities God assigned the participants in a one-flesh relationship. So let me delve into that topic a bit more.

This is the point at which most “Christians” will insist I have gone completely off the rails and ended up in heresy, so tighten your seat belt and hang on for dear life, because this is the *strict constructionist* Truth you need to know in order to understand what Jesus and Paul say about the relationship between a man and a woman who are in a one-flesh relationship together. When I say “*strict constructionist*,” I am speaking in terms of the various schools of thought regarding how the United States Constitution should be interpreted and applied in a legal setting. Conservative judges argue in favor of *textualism*, *originalism*, and *strict constructionism*; liberal judges argue for *judicial activism*. Similar points of view apply to the interpretation of the Scriptures, but I do not have time to explain those things in this short space.

To make a long story short, I am using the rubric *strict constructionist* to state specifically that the biblical definition of adultery can only be what God intended it to be when He gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The *meaning* of the term cannot be what some ignorant egghead wants to think, suppose, or assume it to be at some future time. Anyone who thinks otherwise has merely set himself up to drift on the “winds” so that he (or she) can believe whatever they want to believe regarding the message of the Scriptures. So here is the Truth in that regard as I understand it:

The sin of adultery always depends on the status of the woman—that is, whether or not she is already in a one-flesh relationship with a man. If she is a participant in such a relationship, she cannot—as long as her man is still alive—get out of that one-flesh relationship without breaking the Ten Commandments by committing the sin of adultery or murder. The Apostle Paul states that plainly on a couple of occasions:

<sup>2</sup>[For] [The] [Woman] [subject to a male\*] [has been bound] [by Law] [to her] [living] [Man]; [but] [if] [her]

[Man] [dies], [she has been discharged] [from] [The] [Law] [regarding her] [Man]. <sup>3</sup>[So then], [therefore], [while [her] [Man] is alive] [she will be labeled] [an Adulteress] [if] [another] [Man] [has {her}]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she is] [free] [from] [The] [Law], [so that] [she] [is] [not] [an Adulteress] [when [another] [Man] has {her}].

(Romans 7:2–3) —HSSB

[A Woman] [is bound] [for] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [her] [Man] [is alive]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [has fallen fast asleep], [she is] [free] [to be married] [to whomever] [she wants]—[only] [in] [His Majesty].

(1 Corinthians 7:39) —HSSB

If a woman has sexual intercourse with a man other than her husband while she is in a one-flesh relationship, both she and the other man have committed the sin of adultery *against her man*. That is, they have broken the one-flesh relationship she had with the first man; and she is now in a one-flesh relationship with the man with whom she had sexual intercourse. Make no mistake about it, both the second man and the woman committed adultery. But what is their sin? Does it reside in the act of sexual intercourse, or is it that they have broken the one-flesh relationship the woman had with the first man? The answer should be obvious from what Jesus said in that regard:

<sup>3</sup>[Then] [Pharisees] [approached] [Him], [testing] [Him] [and] [saying], “[Is it permissible] [for a Man] [to dismiss] [his] [Woman] [for] [any] [Reason]?” <sup>4</sup>[But] [in response], [He] [said]: “[Have you [not] read] [that] [the One Who] [created {them}] [at] [The Beginning], [MALE] [AND] [NIPPLE], [HE MADE] [THEM]? <sup>5</sup>[He [also] said], ‘[ON ACCOUNT] [OF THIS], [A MAN] [WILL LEAVE BEHIND] [HIS] [FATHER] [AND] [HIS] [MOTHER] [AND] [ATTACH HIMSELF] [TO] [HIS] [WOMAN]; [AND] [THE] [TWO] [WILL BECOME] [ONE] [FLESH],’ <sup>6</sup>[with the result that] [they are] [no longer] [Two], [but] [one] [Flesh]. [Therefore], [a Man] [must [not] separate] [what] [The] [{Living} God] [has yoked together].”

(Matthew 19:3–6) —HSSB

Last time I checked—and in spite of the lie that any number of pompous, pious, puffed-up preachers prefer to believe—a marriage ceremony does not join a man and a woman together in the sight of God. Sexual

intercourse does. So don’t be a doofus! When all the bridezilla pomp and circumstance is over, the only thing of any consequence that a licensed minister has accomplished is the issuance of a *marriage certificate*. And that piece of paper is significant only because it requires more than 50 percent of the participants in a marriage ceremony to show up in divorce court at some later date to undo the *legal contract* they signed on that most momentous occasion. God made such things a whole lot easier to accomplish for those who are so inclined, provided they have no difficulty facing the wrath of an angry God.

By the same token, in the *strict constructionist* view of adultery, a man cannot commit the sin of adultery *against* a woman with whom he has a one-flesh relationship; he can only “take” another woman by entering into a separate one-flesh relationship with her. That is why God dealt harshly with King David when he “took” Bathsheba, who was in a one-flesh relationship with Uriah (2 Sam. 11–12); yet He said nothing at all to David regarding all the other concubines and free women he had already “taken” (2 Sam. 5:13).

Provided you can accept the things I have just explained, you should be able to understand why Jesus said a man can only repudiate a woman and *legally* divorce her—without sin—if she has committed adultery against him. That is because she has already broken the one-flesh relationship she had with him. Jesus was referring to that in what He said on the following occasion:

<sup>3</sup>[Then] [Pharisees] [approached] [Him], [testing] [Him] [and] [saying], “[Is it permissible] [for a Man] [to dismiss] [his] [Woman] [for] [any] [Reason]?” <sup>4</sup>[But] [in response], [He] [said]: “[Have you [not] read] [that] [the One Who] [created {them}] [at] [The Beginning], [MALE] [AND] [NIPPLE], [HE MADE] [THEM]? <sup>5</sup>[He [also] said], ‘[ON ACCOUNT] [OF THIS], [A MAN] [WILL LEAVE BEHIND] [HIS] [FATHER] [AND] [HIS] [MOTHER] [AND] [ATTACH HIMSELF] [TO] [HIS] [WOMAN]; [AND] [THE] [TWO] [WILL BECOME] [ONE] [FLESH],’ <sup>6</sup>[with the result that] [they are] [no longer] [Two], [but] [one] [Flesh]. [Therefore], [a Man] [must [not] separate] [what] [The] [{Living} God] [has yoked together].” <sup>7</sup>[They say] [to Him], “[Therefore], [why] [did [Moses] give a commandment] [to GIVE {her}] [A SCROLL] [OF A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE] [AND] [DISMISS] [HER]?” <sup>8</sup>[He tells] [them] [that] “[Moses] [permitted] [you] [to dismiss] [your] [Women] [because of] [your]

[Stubbornness], [but] [it has [not] been] [like this] [since] [The Beginning]. <sup>9</sup>[But] [I tell] [you] [that] [whoever] [it might be who] [dismisses] [his] [Woman]—[not] [for] [Sexual Promiscuity]—[and] [marries] [another] [commits adultery].”

(Matthew 19:3–9) —HSSB

Matthew does not make the point of what Jesus meant by what He said as specifically as Mark does. Mark does that by adding more detail to what actually happened that day:

<sup>2</sup>[And] [after [Pharisees] [who were testing] [Him] approached], [they asked [Him] a question], “[Is it permissible] [for a Man] [to dismiss] [a Woman]?” <sup>3</sup>[So then], [in response], [He] [said] [to them], “[What] [commandment did [Moses] give] [you]?” <sup>4</sup>[So] [they] [said], “[Moses] [permitted {us}] [TO WRITE] [A SCROLL] [OF A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE] [AND] [DISMISS {her}].” <sup>5</sup>[So then] [Jesus] [told] [them]: “[He wrote] [This] [Commandment] [for you] [because of] [your] [Stubbornness], <sup>6</sup>[but] [at] [The Beginning] [of Creation], [MALE] [AND] [NIPPLE], [HE MADE] [THEM]. <sup>7</sup>[ON ACCOUNT] [OF THIS], [A MAN] [WILL LEAVE BEHIND] [HIS] [FATHER] [AND] [MOTHER] [AND] [BE UNITED] [WITH] [HIS] [WOMAN]; <sup>8</sup>[AND] [THE] [TWO] [WILL BECOME] [ONE] [FLESH], [with the result that] [they are] [no longer] [Two], [but only] [one] [Flesh]. <sup>9</sup>[Therefore], [a Man] [must [not] separate] [what] [The] [{Living} God] [has yoked together].”

<sup>10</sup>[So], [in] [The] [House], [The] [Disciples] [were asking [Him] a question] [about] [This] [again]; <sup>11</sup>[and] [He tells] [them]: “[Whoever] [it might be who] [dismisses] [his] [Woman] [and] [marries] [another] [commits adultery] [for] [her]. <sup>12</sup>[And] [if] [she] [marries] [another] [after dismissing] [her] [Man], [she commits adultery].”

(Mark 10:2–12) —HSSB

The last two statements in that passage tell us all we need to know about God’s view of adultery. When a woman in a one-flesh relationship has sexual intercourse with another man, she has committed a sin by breaking the one-flesh relationship she had with her man, but she may or may not bear the guilt for her action. If she repudiated her man, she bears the guilt for her sin; but if he repudiated her *without cause*, she is free to do whatever she decides because God will hold him responsible for the sin he caused her to com-

mit. In short, divorce is not an option because a man will bear the blame for the adultery of a woman he dismisses *without cause*.

Now let’s take a look at what the Apostle Paul says about the obligation of the woman under the terms of the one-flesh authority structure. It occurs in the context of him *talking about* the need to avoid sexual promiscuity if one intends to *inherit* the Kingdom of God:

<sup>9</sup>[Or] [are you [not] aware] [that] [Those Who Are Guilty] [will [not] **inherit**] [God’s] [Kingdom]? [Do [not] be led astray]; [neither] [Sexually Promiscuous Individuals] [nor] [Idolaters] [nor] [Adulterers] [nor] [effeminate {males}] [nor] [Homosexual Males] <sup>10</sup>[nor] [Thieves] [nor] [selfish {individuals}]—[no] [Alcoholics], [no] [Revilers], [no] [vicious {individuals}]—[will **inherit**] [God’s] [Kingdom]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [some of] [you were] [These Things], [but] [you were washed off], [but] [you were made holy]; [but] [you were acquitted] [by] [The] [Name] [of] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [The Anointed One] [and] [by] [The] [Spirit] [of] [our] [God].

<sup>12</sup>[Everything] [is permissible] [for me], [but] [not] [everything] [is advantageous]. [Everything] [is permissible] [for me], [but] [I] [will [not] be dominated] [by] [anything]. <sup>13</sup>[Food] {is} [for Your] [Belly]; [and] [Your] [Belly], [for] [Food]. [But] [The] [{Living} God] [will abrogate] [both] [This {Belly}] [and] [These]. [So then] [Your] [Body] {is} [not] [for] [Sexual Promiscuity], [but only] [for] [His Majesty]; [and] [His Majesty], [for Your] [Body]. <sup>14</sup>[Yet] [The] [{Living} God] [also] [raised up] [His Majesty], [and] [He will promote] [us] [via] [His] [Supernatural Power].

<sup>15</sup>[Are you [not] aware] [that] [your] [Bodies] [is] [Members] [of {the} Anointed One]? [Therefore], [after taking away] [The] [Members] [of The] [Anointed One], [should I make {them}] [Members] [of a Prostitute]? [Certainly] [not]! <sup>16</sup>[Or] [are you [not] aware] [that] [the one who] [attaches himself] [to The] [Prostitute] [is] [one] [Body]? [For] [He declares], “[THE] [TWO] [WILL BECOME] [ONE] [FLESH].” <sup>17</sup>[But then] [the one who] [attaches himself] [to] [His Majesty] [is] [one] [Spirit]. <sup>18</sup>[Flee] [Sexual Promiscuity]. [Every] [Sinful Act] [that] [it may be that] [a Man] [commits] [is] [outside] [his] [Body]. [But] [the one who] [is sexually promiscuous] [sins] [against] [his] [own] [Body]. <sup>19</sup>[Or] [are you [not] aware] [that] [your] [Body] [is] [a Sanctuary] [of The] [holy] [Spirit] [within] [you], [which] [you have] [from] [God], [and] [you are]

[not] [your own]? <sup>20</sup>[For] [you were bought with] [Something Valuable]. [Without question], [you must glorify] [The] [{Living} God] [in] [your] [Body].

<sup>1</sup>[But] [with regard to] [the things that] [you wrote], {it is} [far better] [that [a Woman] [not] be touched] [by a Man]. <sup>2</sup>[But] [because of] [Sexual Promiscuities], [each {man}] [may have] [his] [own] [Woman]; [and] [each {woman}] [may have] [her] [own] [Man]. <sup>3</sup>[The] [Man] [must pay] [What [he] Owes] [to his] [Woman]; [but], [likewise], [The] [Woman], [also] [to her] [Man]. <sup>4</sup>[The] [Woman] [does [not] have authority over] [her] [own] [Body], [but] [The] [Man] {does}. [But then], [likewise], [The] [Man] [also] [does [not] have authority over] [his] [own] [Body]; [but] [The] [Woman] {does}. <sup>5</sup>[Do [not] deprive] [one another], [except] [possibly] [by] [Mutual Consent\*] [for] [a Time]: (1) [so that] [you may have leisure time] [for] [Prayer] [and] [be] [together] [again]; (2) [so that] [Satan] [can [not] test] [you] [via] [your] [Lack of Self-control]. <sup>6</sup>[But] [I say] [This] [in accordance with] [What Is Allowed\*], [not] [in accordance with] [a Directive]. <sup>7</sup>[Yet] [I also want] [all] [Men] [to be] [like] [me]; [but] [each one] [has] [his own] [Gift] [from] [God]—[one] [like this], [but another] [like that].

<sup>8</sup>[Yet] [I tell] [the] [unmarried] [and] [The] [Widows] {it is} [far better] [for them] [if] [they remain] [like] [me also]. <sup>9</sup>[But] [if] [they do [not] have self-control], [let them marry]; [for] [it is] [better] [to marry] [than] [to be burned]. <sup>10</sup>[But] [I—not] [I], [but] [His Majesty]—give [those who] [have married] instructions: (1) [that [a Woman] should [not] leave] [{her} Man]—<sup>11</sup>[but] [also], [if] [she has left], [she must remain] [unmarried] [or] [be reconciled] [to her] [Man]—[and] (2) [that [a Man] should [not] leave] [a Woman].

<sup>12</sup>[But] [I—not] [His Majesty]—[tell] [The] [Rest of {you}]: [If] [any] [Brother] [has] [a Woman] [who does not believe God's promise], [and] [she] [is delighted] [to reside] [with] [him], [he must [not] leave] [her]. <sup>13</sup>[And] [if] [any] [Woman] [has] [a Man] [who does not believe God's promise], [and] [This Individual] [is delighted] [to reside] [with] [her], [she must [not] leave] [The] [Man]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [The] [Man] [who] [does not believe God's promise] [is made holy] [by] [The] [Woman], [and] [The] [Woman] [who] [does not believe God's promise] [is made holy] [by] [The] [Brother]; [otherwise], [your] [Children] [is] [unclean]. [But] [now] [he is] [holy]. <sup>15</sup>[But] [if] [The] [One Who Does Not Believe God's Promise] [leaves], [let him

leave]. [The] [Brother] [or] [The] [Sister] [has [not] been made a slave] [in] [Such Cases]; [but] [The] [{Living} God] [has invited] [you] [into] [Peace]. <sup>16</sup>[For] [how], [Woman], [do you know] [whether] [you will save] [The] [Man]? [Or] [how], [Man], [do you know] [whether] [you will save] [The] [Woman]?

(1 Corinthians 6:9–7:16)—HSSB

Let me point out a few things that Paul says about the one-flesh relationship that should be obvious to anyone with half a brain; but it may not be, because Satan has this generation firmly believing his lies. Paul begins by giving his opinion, which *means* the Lord has not given him specific instructions with regard to what he says. Hence, there is no obligation on the part of Believers to follow his directions when he says this:

1. *It is better for both men and women not to “marry”; that is, to enter a one-flesh relationship.*
2. *But anyone with a strong sex drive would be better off “marrying” to reduce the temptation to commit the sin of sexual promiscuity.*

Yet in the middle of what he says, Paul inserts something the Lord did tell him:

1. *A woman “should not” leave her man; but if she does leave, she “must” remain “unmarried” or “be reconciled” with her man.*
2. *A man “should not” leave his woman.*

By his use of a subjunctive form of the verb, Paul is indicating the Lord did not make a hard-and-fast rule; He only indicated what would be best under most circumstances. The point is, the Lord left the final decision up to the Believer; but He did specifically stipulate that if a woman does leave her man, she has to remain celibate or else be reconciled with the man. That is because she is still bound to the man until he dies.

Paul is not so accommodating with regard to what the Lord told him; he uses an imperative form of the verb to insert a specific command regarding those who have a spouse who “is delighted” to be with them. He says the Believer “must not” leave the relationship simply because there is still hope their significant other may respond to the Truth:

1. If a woman who does not believe **the promise** “is delighted” to be with the man, the man “must not” leave her.
2. If a man who does not believe **the promise** “is delighted” to be with a woman, she “must not” leave him.
3. If the one who does not believe God’s **promise** leaves, the Believer is free to do whatever they decide to do. That is, the one-flesh relationship has been dissolved by the action of the one who does not believe.

In conclusion, let me say this: Satan has a habit of taking a mindless unbeliever who he is fairly certain will vociferously oppose the Truth and pairing them up with a person who has been born again. His purpose in doing that is to use the unbeliever as a vector for his nonsense so as to influence the Believer and dissuade them from believing the Truth. Consequently, if what I have said here serves no other purpose, it should give hope to Believers—especially women—who find themselves in an untenable relationship with someone who makes a point of trying to deter them from following *The Teaching*. They have options. The Lord Himself told Paul it is possible for a woman to leave a man who oversteps his authority by telling her what she can and cannot do with regard to *The Teaching*. To that directive, Paul merely adds the caveat that a Believer “must not” leave if their unbelieving spouse “is delighted” with them believing the Truth.

On the basis of what I have told you thus far, I also tell you this: If a man who believes the Truth leaves a woman with whom he has a one-flesh relationship, he is automatically free to enter into a one-flesh relationship with any unbound woman who is a True Believer simply because adultery is not an issue. Think King David and all the women he “took.” But if a woman leaves the man to whom she is bound, she must remain celibate or go back to him because adultery is very definitely an issue. That is why Paul said the following as his final word on the subject:

[A Woman] [is bound] [for] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [her] [Man] [is alive]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [has fallen fast asleep], [she is] [free] [to be married] [to whomever] [she wants]—[only] [in] [His Majesty].  
(1 Corinthians 7:39) —HSSB

If anyone should happen to question why the woman in a one-flesh relationship is treated differently than the man, I simply say, “Eve unleashed a whole host of problems on women just because she called God a Liar, so it would be best that you not follow her example.” Just sayin’.

<sup>4</sup>[So] [we] [are writing] [These Things] [so that] [The] [Joy] [we have] [may be] [fully complete]. <sup>5</sup>[And] [This] [is] [The] [Message] [that] [we have heard] [from] [Him] [and] [are divulging] [to you]: [that] “[The] [{Living} God] [is] [Light], [and] [there is] [not] [any] [Darkness] at all] [in] [Him]!” <sup>6</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we have] [Commonality] [with] [Him] [yet] [walk] [in] [The] [Nether Darkness], [we are lying] [and] [are [not] acting in accordance with] [The] [Truth]. <sup>7</sup>[But] [if] [we are walking] [in] [The] [Light] [as] [He] [is] [in] [The] [Light], [we have] [Commonality] [with] [one another], [and] [The] [Blood] [of Jesus]—[His] [Son]—[cleanses] [us] [of] [every] [Sin]. <sup>8</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we do [not] have {any}] [Sin], [we are leading [ourselves] astray]; [and] [The] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [us]. <sup>9</sup>[If] [we acknowledge] [our] [Sins], [it is] [believable] [and] [right] [that] [He would forgive] [us] [our] [Sins] [and] [cleanse] [us] [of] [all] [Immortality]. <sup>10</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we have [not] sinned], [we make [Him] out to be] [a Liar]; [and] [His] [Word] [is] [not] [in] [us]!

(1 John 1:4–10) —HSSB

[The one who] [believes God’s **promise**] [about] [The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God] [has] [The] [Testimony] [in] [himself]; [the one who] [does [not] believe] [The] [{Living} God] [has made [Him] out to be] [a Liar], [because] [He has [not] believed God’s promise] [in] [The] [Testimony] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [has provided] [with regard to] [His] [Son].

(1 John 5:10) —HSSB

To those who *choose* not to believe what I have told you here, I say this: The Truth regarding the message of the Scriptures is “the testimony that the living God has provided with regard to His Son.” God called me to *restore* and teach those things so that True Believers can be free from the burden of Satan’s lies. Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. What you *choose* to believe makes no difference to me one way or another; I’m just doing what God called me to do.

**Editor:** *One of our Contributors told us that after becoming aware of the Truth of The Teaching in 2014, she has been laying aside many lies, misconceptions, and belief patterns that are obviously not true (as per The Teaching and the Truth revealed so far). She writes:*

*"Understand, before the Truth of The Teaching was made available to me, I came from a nondenominational background and in prayer, we were instructed to 'command' the word of God to manifest in a person's life. For example, I command the spirit of sickness to leave, or I command the body to line up with the truth of the word.... I have found the Greek word—paraggelos—that appears to mean 'to transmit a message along from one to another, to declare, announce.' An example is when Paul commands an annoying spirit to come out of a demon possessed girl (Acts 16:18). I can find no newsletter or Update that Larry has taught on this particular Greek word that is translated as 'command.' I have read and reread the topics regarding the right/authority given to born again individuals (layman, such as being a door-keeper and the right to be children of God). I have a basic understanding in that regards (though I know I am still one of those 'weak in the faith'). I am new to the Next Step with only 12 CDs received so far. So here is my question.*

*I recognize I am not an apostle, prophet, evangelist or teacher. I cannot with certainty state I have received any call or gifting that gave me the authority to deliver any individual from demonic activity. So do I have any right to 'command' a demon to leave someone or to command their bodies to 'line up with the word' (whatever that means)? Is this just another of the many lies that I must willingly refuse to believe? I am part of a praying group of women and there are times when someone may pray with this type of 'command this,' 'command that' attitude and every time I read/hear this type of praying I get this uncomfortable feeling, as though this is foolishness, even dangerous. I believe I may ask God in prayer, but I no longer feel it is appropriate to 'command' God in the name of Jesus, or to 'command' someone's body to 'line up with the word.' I am coming to the understanding that I no longer have much in common with this group of praying women.*

*I have listened to the Next Step teaching on prayer and have a basic understanding as well, but I obviously need more understanding. Any thoughts or direction regarding where to read/study to help me gain clarity in*

*this area would be greatly appreciated. I apologize for the length of this text, but I desired Truth in this matter. I look forward to any response from Larry in regards to the word 'paraggelos' and hopefully a better understanding of the issue stated. I have been contemplating my role within the prayer group for some time now. It's an emotionally complicated situation (for me, not for God of course), but Truth is Truth and I would rather stand for Truth than continue on in lies. I have just found the Next Step CD #9 where Larry discusses the 'call of God,' which is my unstated question within the question. I hope reviewing the material will help me continue on in my understanding and walk with Him."*

**Elijah:** The Greek term *paraggello* means nothing more than "to instruct someone to do something" or "to give instructions to someone." The Apostles had the authority to "instruct" demons and unclean spirits to do what they told them to do because Jesus had given them that authority:

*[And] [after summoning] [His] [twelve] [Disciples], [He gave] [them] [Authority over] [unclean] [Spirits], [so as] [to cast [them] out] [and] [cure] [every] [Disease] [and] [every] [Delicate Condition].  
(Matthew 10:1) —HSSB*

I have a hunch the Holy Spirit is warning this person to stay away from commanding the demons and unclean spirits to do what she says. If she falls into that trap and does it, they may well respond the way they did when the seven sons of Sceva took it upon themselves to attempt something that they had no authority to do:

<sup>11</sup>*[And also], [The] [{Living} God] [was doing] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [that] [were] [not] [obtainable] [via] [The] [Hands] [of Paul], <sup>12</sup>[with the result that], [for] [those who] [were sick], [even] [Handkerchiefs] [or] [Aprons\*] [were carried away] [from] [his] [Bare Skin\*]; [and] [Diseases] [were set free] [from] [them], [and] [The] [Spirits] [that were] [nasty] also] [came out]. <sup>13</sup>[But] [some] [of The] [Jewish] [Exorcists\*] [who were coming around] [also] [attempted] [to name] [The] [Name] [of] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [over] [those who] [had] [Spirits] [that were] [nasty], [saying], "[I adjure [you] by] [The] [Jesus] [that] [Paul] [preaches]."<sup>14</sup>[Now] [seven]*

[Sons] [of [some] Sceva\*], [a Jewish] [High Priest], [were] [doing] [This]; <sup>15</sup>[but] [in response], [The] [Spirit] [that was] [nasty] [said] [to them], "[I do, [in fact], know] [Jesus]; [and] [I am cognizant of] [Paul], [but] [who] [are] [you]?" <sup>16</sup>[Then], [after [The] [Man], [in] [whom] [The] [Spirit] [that was] [nasty] [was], sprang up\*] [on] [them], [dominating] [both of them], [he had the ability] [over] [them], [with the result] [that {they} escaped] [out] [of] [That] [House] [naked] [and] [injured].

(Acts 19:11–16) —HSSB

As you can see, that nasty spirit took action against those poor fools by attacking them physically. He could have just as easily attacked them *mentally*, which would have left them much worse off. So I say this to the woman who asked the question, if any of the women in your prayer group end up living in a room with padded walls, you can be certain you know why. Trying to impose your will on someone over whom you have no authority is never a good idea.

**Editor:** *We have a question from a man who tells us he has been a newsletter subscriber from the very beginning and thinks he has every copy. He begins by saying:*

*"I got way behind and am trying to catch up. I do have a question. I have read Not All Israel Is Israel and several times in the early newsletters it is mentioned about the other books in The Resurrection Theology Series. I notice that these are not currently for sale. Are they still being planned or is there another way to access this information?"*

**Elijah:** I have published *Not All Israel Is Israel* in book form, and I have made *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1* available in audio book form, but the information I intend to explain in *House of Israel, Temple of God and Prophecy and the Parables of Jesus* has only been explained piecemeal in *The Voice of Elijah*® quarterly newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® Update. The situation is somewhat like what Isaiah described:

<sup>9</sup>[To [whom] would He teach] [Knowledge]?  
[And to [whom] would He provide  
an understanding of] [a Message]?  
[Those who have been weaned] [from Milk]!  
[{Those} too mature] [for Breasts]!

<sup>10</sup>[Because]:

"[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];  
[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].  
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];  
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].  
[A Little Bit] {is} [here];  
[A Little Bit] {is} [there]."

<sup>11</sup>[Because]:

[He will speak] [to] [This] [People]  
[With a [sneering] Lip] [and in [another] Tongue],

<sup>12</sup>[What] [He said] [to them]:

"[This] {is} [The Resting Place]!  
[You must give rest] [to {the} weary].  
[And this] {is} [The Tranquility\*]!"  
[But he was [not] willing] [to listen].

<sup>13</sup>[So [The Word] [{of} His Majesty] [to them] will be]:

"[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];  
[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].  
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];  
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].  
[A Little Bit] {is} [here];  
[A Little Bit] {is} [there]."

[In order that] [they walk] [and stumble] [backwards]  
[And are broken] [and trapped] [and captured].  
(Isaiah 28:9–13) —my interim translation

The Truth is, if someone expects me to spoon-feed them my understanding of the Truth, they are going to be sorely disappointed. God did not call me to do that, and I certainly have no intention of doing it. I have been called to winnow out Pretenders, and a sure sign of a Pretender is an unwillingness to do anything to "feed" himself. To put it in the terms that God used to ridicule fools who are not willing to make any effort to understand the Truth:

[{The} Heart] [of one who has understanding]  
[seeks] [Knowledge],  
[But {the} Mouth of] [Imbeciles] [grazes on] [Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 15:14) —my interim translation

[{The} Lazy Person] [hid] [his Hand] [in {the} Dish];  
[He will [not] [even] bring it back] [to] [his Mouth].  
(Proverbs 19:24) —my interim translation

[{The} Lazy Person] [hid] [his Hand] [in {the} Dish];  
[He had a hard time] [bringing it back] [to] [his Mouth].  
(Proverbs 26:15) —my interim translation ■

Continued from front cover

dibinity, because their nature is unknown. Thus they would have themselves thought sometimes the authors of the things which they announce; and sometimes, no doubt, the bad things are their doing, never the good.

The purposes of God, too, they took up of old from the lips of the prophets, even as they spoke them; and they gather them still from their works, when they hear them read aloud. Thus getting, too, from this source some intimations of the future, they set themselves up as rivals of the true God, while they steal His divinations. But the skill with which their responses are shaped to meet events, your Croesi and Hyrrhi know too well.

On the other hand, it was in that way we have explained, the Pythian was able to declare that they were cooking a tortoise with the flesh of a lamb; in a moment he had been to Lydia. From dwelling in the air, and their nearness to the stars, and their commerce with the clouds, they have means of knowing the preparatory processes going on in these upper regions, and thus can give promise of the rains which they already feel.

Very kind too, no doubt, they are in regard to the healing of diseases. For, first of all, they make you ill; then, to get a miracle out of it, they command the application of remedies either altogether new, or contrary to those in use, and straightway withdrawing hurtful influence, they are supposed to have wrought a cure. What need, then, to speak of their other artifices, or yet further of the deceptive power which they have as spirits: of these Castor apparitions, of water carried by a sieve, and a ship drawn along by a girdle, and a beard reddened by a touch, all done with the one object of showing that men should believe in the deity of stones, and not seek after the only true God?

Tertullian, "Apology," Chap. xxii, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 3, pp. 36–37.

The Voice of Elijah  
P.O. Box 2257  
Rockwall, TX 75087-2257  
(972) 635-2021

## Is It Time To Renew?

Don't miss a single issue! Use the order form in this issue to renew your subscription now.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROYSE CITY, TX  
PERMIT NO. 0030

[www.voiceofelijah.org](http://www.voiceofelijah.org)